

Le Chêile

COMMUNITY MAGAZINE



September 2021 No. 396

EDITORIAL

Nominations invited to C.C.C.

Clane Community Council is now 48 years in existence, having been set up in 1973. Every second year Nominations are invited to continue this voluntary community structure into the future. On page 8 you will find a brief summary of the works carried out over the past 46 years.

The concept of working together as a community to develop facilities which will improve the quality of life in one's area was developed by Canon Hayes, the founder of Muintir na Tíre, in the 1930's. Urban District Councils are a statutory equivalent which existed in towns like Naas, Newbridge and Athy. Such towns had State standing and funding but became highly politicised. Their Urban Councils were abolished during the downturn. Many of these towns are now attempting to set up structures based on the Muintir na Tíre model but are working against huge odds and are struggling in their efforts. The voluntary model is almost unique to Ireland and would not be possible in more impersonal societies or large cities and conurbations.

We in Clane should continue to value what we have and to work for its improvement. It is a case of men and women working with and for the community. The community needs your ideas, your talents and skills. There are as many ways to contribute as there are different personalities and talents. It is not just a matter of keeping what we have going -full stop. There are always new issues to be looked at and considered. Needs change with time and circumstances.

There is a saying in Irish. Níl

neart gan chur le chéile (We have no strength until we combine our efforts). Working together means also working with other community groups -in the Sports area, in the culture and arts area, with the I.C.A., with Residents Associations, with the Parade group, with the Wheelchair Association, etc. It means working with the authorities, such as the County Council, the Gardaí, the Schools and the various providers of grant funding.. There is nothing achieved in isolation, so let's all row in together.

Look

around you & you will become aware of people in your own area who you think could contribute. Indeed, how about nominating yourself? A meeting once a month, with a break in July & August is something most people could manage & think of the benefits to the community - & to you in terms of satisfaction as a volunteer in your own community. See p.8 for benefits and achievements.

Nomination Papers will be available at the Post Office in Londis from Mon. 4th October to Mon. 1st November. See Area Map on page 3. You will also be able to Nominate on line at the Web Site www.clanecommunity.ie)

EDITOR'S DEADLINE

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

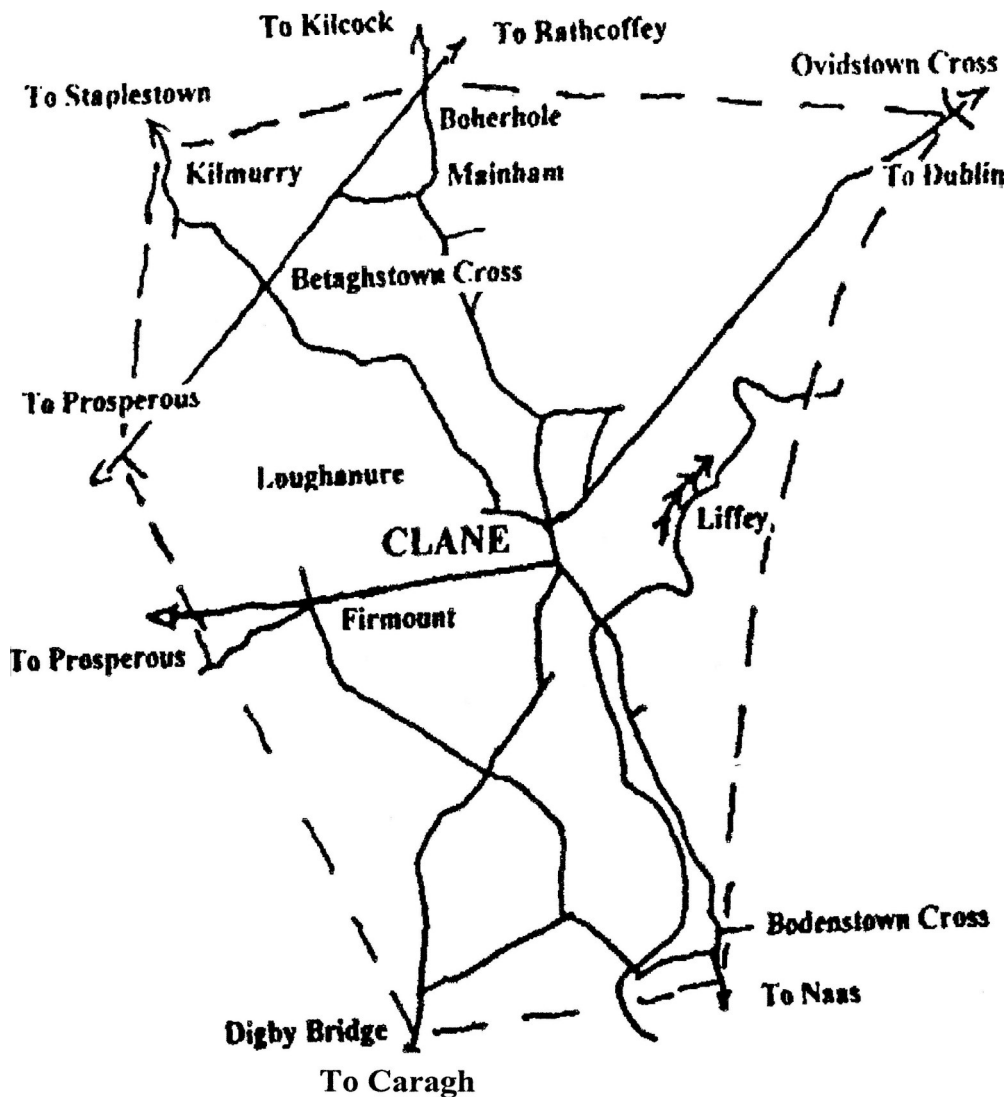
Monday 20th September

To 142 Loughbollard please.

E-mail: mcevoyclane@gmail.com

Get Le Chéile on www.clanecommunity.ie

COMMUNITY COUNCIL AREA



Anyone 18 years or over who is resident in the above area is eligible to nominate or be nominated as a member of Clane Community Council for the two year term 2022-2023. This includes nominating oneself. Nomination papers will be available at Clane P.O. in Londis from Mon. 4th October to Mon. 1st November.

AN ENDURING LINK

**By 5th Class, Room 12, June 2021,
Scoil Phádraig, Clane, Co. Kildare.**

We were very lucky recently to have had a talk by Séamus Cullen, the historian, about different times of revolution, conflict and change in the world, and how they are linked to Ireland and more closely to Clane. We found the section he did on the Irish Famine particularly interesting as we had covered it recently with our teacher in class. Seeing how it affected the Clane area and comparing it to the pandemic we are going through today was eye-opening.

The part that stuck with us most, however, was when Séamus mentioned how the Choctaw Nation of Native Americans strived to help the Irish people during the Famine. In 1847, just thirteen years after they themselves were displaced from their ancestral homes by the American Government and forced to migrate on a perilous and often deadly journey to new lands that has become known as the ‘Trail of Tears’, the Choctaw Nation heard of the plight of Ireland during the failure of their vital potato

crop, and the reports of people dying by the side of the road from starvation. Although they themselves at the time had very little, they donated the huge sum of \$170, which estimates say is worth somewhere near \$5,500 today. The sum was used mainly to help people in the Middleton area of Co. Cork. This extraordinary act of kindness, of serving those in great need, or as the Choctaw would say in their language ‘iyyikowa’, created a deep bond between the Native American people and the Irish, something which has endured to this day. In 1995, President Mary Robinson visited the Choctaw Nation to re-establish and renew the special connection between the Irish and the Native American people, coming a few years after members of the Choctaw Nation were invited to lead a commemorative march in County Mayo highlighting the plight of the Irish who had to leave their lands during the Famine.

In 2017, a special sculpture called ‘Kindred Spirits’ depicting nine eagle feathers (which hold great resonance in Native American tradi-

tion and culture) in the shape of a bowl ward' was not forgotten by the Irish people, many of whom specifically mentioned as a recognition of the amazing selflessness shown by the Choctaw Nation themselves were sending money to help, towards the people of Ireland during the Famine. The sculpture, representing an offering of friendship and help, is a striking and enduring symbol of the connection between our nations to this day. When the Hopi Nation and Navajo Tribes endured incredibly difficult conditions during the early part of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, they were inundated with donations and messages of goodwill from Irish people. The tradition of 'paying it forward' was not forgotten by the Irish people, many of whom specifically mentioned the Choctaw Nation's donation when they themselves were sending money to help, showing that *iyiyikowa* is an enduring link between Ireland and the Native American Nations.

Our class would like to give a special thanks to the members of the Choctaw Nation who's selflessness and great kindness shown towards the Irish during the Famine helped to forge a deep bond of friendship that continues between the Native Americans and the people of Ireland to this day.



CRIME IN CLANE IN 1922

Congratulations to Clane GAA on the publication of their Centenary Book, "Clane G.A.A., a Century. A History of the Club and the People." The research team unearthed many rare and interesting snippets such as the following:

"Between February and August of 1922, the 10,000 men of the RIC, disappeared from the towns and villages of Ireland. Most of them left the country for new lives in America and England. Indeed, they were glad to go. They had suffered appalling casualties during the preceding two years, with over 500 of their members being killed. The wave of crime and lawlessness which followed, was a manifestation of long pent-up feelings of resentment among the communities of rural Ireland. Small communities which had never known criminal violence beyond the odd 'Pub Brawl' now found themselves subjected to violent crimes such as armed robberies, arson and even murder. This breakdown of Law and Order was often used as an opportunity to settle old scores and feuds, many originating from the land settlements of previous years. In addition, the breakdown of the Courts made it impossible to collect debts and

enforce court orders. Merchants and shopkeepers who had traditionally kept 'The Book', began to restrict credit as they weren't sure that they could ever collect. Many small farmers who paid their bills at Harvest Time, or the poor man waiting to sell the fat pig or the cow to calf, were in real difficulty.

The new Government, under Collins, were in dire straits. They were under attack from several quarters. The press of the day was insisting that it was the Government's prime duty to put down lawlessness and restore order. The British Government were showing equal concern over attacks on their 'Vested Interests' and on occasion, Churchill even threatened to send back in British troops.

Recruitment to the new Civic Guards commenced in March 1922, mainly from the ranks of the LRA., many of whom were 'Column' men, battle hardened Guerrillas, who had done their fighting among the hills of their native counties. They were given brief training at the RD.S. in Dublin, and on 25th April 1922, the first 1,500 were dispatched to Kildare by train, the intention being to deploy them throughout the countryside as quickly as possible. However, at Kildare, the deep-seated anger and resentment among

the 'Column' men, who had watched virtually every rank above that of Sergeant being handed to their erstwhile enemies in the RIC., finally erupted into open rebellion on the 11th May 1922. This led to a long and bitter mutiny which delayed their deployment for several weeks. Eventually, the Government relented, and in September of that year twenty-five guards were sent to Naas and a short time later a Sergeant and four guards arrived in Clane. The 'Ideal' of giving the Irish people their own unarmed police which would be 'Irish in thought and action' was being put into effect.

The ordinary people of Clane had no foreknowledge of their coming and initially there was some confusion at the arrival of this strange group of young men in blue uniforms in the village.

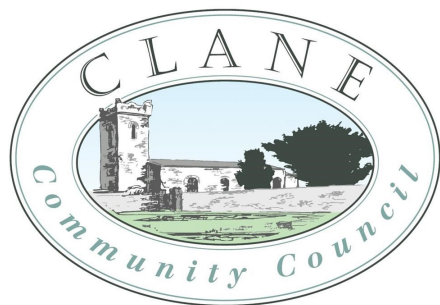
However, by and large, they were well received by the local community, many of whom brought gifts of food and other essentials, which were gratefully received by the party, who had been hastily despatched with scanty supplies. On the other hand, the new Civic Guards were given no honeymoon period, by those intent on disorder and the crimes and outrages continued relentlessly.

Press reports of the time bear ample evidence of this: 22nd November 1922 -- Straffan post office entered by two armed men who stole £106 and a pair of boots and other items from postmistress Jane P. Holbrook. 8th December 1922 -- four armed and masked men broke into Clongoweswood post office at 1.20 a.m., and stole property valued at £163.14.8 from the postmistress, Josephine Shanahan. One of the culprits was described as being 5'7", wearing a fawn soft hat, navy jacket, fawn riding breeches, black boots and brown leggings. He spoke with a Kildare accent. On the same date, Coolcarrigan post office was entered by two armed men, who failed to find any money. 15th December 1922 -- armed men attempted to rob Fergus McKenna, Steward at Barton's Estate, Maynooth. 20th December 1922-- Straffan post office was again robbed by three men who threatened Mrs. Briget Ennis there and smashed the new telephone. 30th December 1922 - - Three armed men entered the Co-Op Stores at Corduff, and robbed Martha Kelly of cigarettes and tobacco valued at 10/6d.".

Over the next two months the following post offices were robbed, Clongowes-

wood (again), Straffan (again), Clane, Celbridge and Clongoweswood (again)!

In addition, shops were robbed at Rathcoffey and Prosperous, while individuals were robbed at Rathcoffey, Ballinafagh.



INVITATION TO NOMINATE MEMBERS FOR 2020-2021

Nomination Papers will be available at Clane P.O. in **October**. 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 and demolition of Tower averted.
- Le Chéile community magazine started

in January 1974. Now on clanecomunty.ie.

- Village Green walled & Triangle built 1975.
- Tidy Towns commenced in 1975.
- Piped TV first organized in 1975.
- Stream Park (Playground) purchased 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 (now the Playground) to €10,000.
- In 1992 the old Sewage Plant at the Liffey 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 boundary walls and 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.

KEEP THE WORK GOING!