

The Clane Connection

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- We want to know what's going on in the Clane area - everything from birth days, births and engagements to retirements, personal achievements and milestone events.
- If you have a news story that your neighbours and friends in Clane should know about, we want you to call us or send us a text or an email today.



Team Gazza members (front: l-r) Caroline Mullally, Andrea Walsh, Siobhan McCrystal, James Lawless TD, Jennifer Flynn; (back: l-r) Donal Martin, Kieran Prendergast, Tommy Dillon, Michael Waters, Paul Dunne and Daire Dillon in Rathcoffey GAA Hall and ready to run 7.5km

TEAM GAZZ COMPLETE RATHCOFFEY FUN RUN...

by Kim Mullahey

GET Clane Fit members took part in the annual 10km Run in Rathcoffey last Saturday morning (4th February).

And organiser Paul 'Gazza' Dunne had to be happy with the outcome.

The members of his 'Team Gazza' go together last

month and braved the Fun Run 7.5km category in Rathcoffey.

A total of 378 people went to the starting line in the Rathcoffey run, 295 of them entered the 7.5km Fun Run while the remainder ran the 10K race.

Siobhan McCrystal, who placed 60th and Tom Dillon came in at 73rd while Michael Waters was placed 133rd.

Kildare North TD James Lawless (FF), who lives in Sallins, also ran with the team and he finished in 243rd place.

Weigh-in for the Get Clane Fit programme, a fundraiser for Clane GAA Club, took place on Friday, 27th January when it was shown that nearly 200 participants in the programme have already lost 70 stones.

Clane student delivers Tedx talk in Vilnius

by Kate Donoghue

HARRY McCann is not your typical Leaving Certificate student. By 15, he had set up his first business, Kid Tech, and travelled around Ireland teaching over 800 children to code.

Just before his 16th birthday, he

founded the Digital Youth Council of Ireland, the first of its kind in the world, in an effort to empower youth through science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM).

He is also the founder of Trendster, a journalistic platform which enables teenagers to have their say on current affairs.

And on Saturday, 28th January last, he was an invited speaker at an independent TEDx event in Vilnius, Lithuania which focused on education.

TED is a non-profit organisation whose mantra is 'Ideas Worth Spreading'. TED events usually consist of videos and live-speakers and aim to spark deep conversations and connection.

Modeled on the TED experience, Tedx events are organised independently but share the aim of spreading worthy ideas.

The programme of events in Vilnius was split into two parts: one for children and one for adults. Mr McCann presented as part of the adults' programme on the importance of STEM education.

"I spoke about how, through education and through STEM, we can empower youth to change the world.

"Over the years, people have used science, technology engineering and maths to put electric cars on the road, put phones in our pockets to enable the world to do so much.

"By introducing STEM to the education system and making the education system more practical, we'd be empowering youth to go on



Harry McCann speaking at the TEDx event in Vilnius, Lithuania.

and possibly build the next great invention or work in one of the millions of STEM jobs in the EU by 2020."

Mr McCann pointed out that the world is changing and our education system ought to reflect that:

"STEM takes up such a small part in our education system, whereas it plays such a big part in the world around us.

"In Ireland, if you look at all the big businesses here: Facebook, Google, Twitter; they all require people who are skilled in STEM.

"The current education system has science in post-primary but other than that, there's no coding, there's no proper engineering, there's no robotics.

"I think it leaves us at a huge dis-

advantage in the future in regards to filling the roles that those businesses have.

Mr McCann believes the lack of STEM subjects in secondary schools causes difficulties for Irish students when they go on to third-level:

"The dropout rate is huge in STEM-related subjects. Although people love the idea of going on to do coding, the prior knowledge they have isn't always enough.

Since the age of 12 or 13, STEM has been an area of interest for the Clane student, who said it has grown into "a hobby on steroids".

When he has completed his Leaving Certificate, the 18-year-old hopes to study Government at University College Cork.

Archbishop Diarmuid Martin to celebrate Thanksgiving Mass in Clane

by Kim Mullahey

DUBLIN Diocese Archbishop Diarmuid Martin will be in Gardiner Street Church, St Francis Xavier's in Dublin to celebrate a Thanksgiving Mass for John Sullivan, SJ who was elevated to Blessed Elect last April by Pope Francis I.

While the cause for Fr Sullivan's canonisation has moved slowly through the Church since shortly after his death in 1933, in recent years under Vice Postulator Conor Harper, SJ, the former teacher at Clongowes Wood College in Clane was elevated to within one step of canonisation when proof of a healing miracle was confirmed by The Vatican in Rome.

The movement towards sainthood has been strongly supported among the Catholic faithful and the Church of Ireland, particularly within the North Kildare communities of Clane, Naas and Rathcoffey because of John Sullivan's ministry to the sick and dying and in County Fermanagh, where he attended Portora Royal School.

His canonisation if successful will represent the first Irish Saint to be named from the two faith traditions.

The annual Thanksgiving Mass, marking the death of Fr John Sullivan will take place in Gardiner Street Church where Fr Sullivan is buried on Saturday, 18th February at 11am.

All are welcome to attend.

Clane Community Noticeboard

● SCOIL Phdraig in Clane will close enrolment for September 2017 on Friday, 10th February. Applications obtained from the boys' national school on Prosperous Road may be completed until the closing day and submitted with birth and baptismal certificate, PPS number and utility bill with proof of address.

● THE Clane branch of Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann will host a Set Dancing Ceili on Sunday (12th February) at the Clane GAA Centre on Prosperous Road with music by the Beartla O Flatharta Ceili Band and Fear an Ti Frank Keenan. Admission to the evening of Set Dancing from 4pm to 7pm will be €12 per person in aid of St Brigid's Hospice Kildare and West Wicklow and includes refreshments.

● CLANE GAA Club is planning to hold a 'White Collar Boxing and K-1 Kickboxing' night on Saturday, 4th March, starting at 7pm. Those taking part will put in eight weeks of training at Naas Kickboxing & Fitness.

● TOASTMASTERS in Clane will hold a meeting at the Clane GAA Centre in Conneff Park on Wednesday, 15th Febru-

ary from 7.45pm. Clane Toastmasters meet in the first floor club lounge on the first and third Wednesday of every month and visitors are welcome to find out more about public speaking in a fun and supportive environment.

● CLANE Get Fit Party Night will take place on Friday, 24th February from 9am at Conneff Park.

● CLANE GAA Senior Ladies Football team will host a Table Quiz at Conneff Park on Saturday, 25th February at 8pm. Admission will be €40 per table of four and tables are available from Fergie Burke (087-7510801), Nicola Collins (085-1226258), John O'Shea (087-9172056) and Eddie Cribbin (087-6424870).

● PLAY Bingo at the Clane GAA Centre on Prosperous Road every Tuesday night at 8.30pm. There are many cash prizes to be won and a weekly Jackpot. All welcome.

● CLANE Camogie Club is delighted to have five of its members selected for the Kildare Under-14 county panel. The five are Laois Gillman, Aoibheann Healy, Dallison Modular, Claire and Rebecca Lynch.