

Clarinbridge Community Development Association



February 2008

Tidy Towns

Chairperson Kevin Moore

This has been another busy year for the Tidy Towns Committee. We have to thank previous generations for our beautiful Built Environment, but it our responsibility to maintain and improve it. Clarinbridge received a small cash award in the Galway County Council Environmental Awards 2007 and we came fourth in our section of the Tidy Towns Competition in County Galway, a tantalising 7 point behind the winners, Abbey.

The Tidy Towns committee encourage everyone to read the Tidy Towns report and see whether their business, home, housing estate, community group etc. comes in for praise or is in the “must try harder” section. The committee will continue to work on the areas where they can, but for the second year running, negative comments in the report relate to private property outside the control of the Committee. The Tidy Towns Adjudication Report is available to download at www.clarinbridge.ie in the “News” section.

Thanks to everyone who came out for the various “Village Cleanups” and hopefully there will be some new people becoming involved this year. “Cleanups” are very important but everyone, children included, can help on a daily basis by not passing litter on roads. As with all voluntary groups, a small group of people shoulder most of the burden. These include, but are not limited to, Mary Keane, Clare Griffin, Bridie Donoghue, PJ Coen, David O’Reilly, Brian Carr & Johnny Kelly. Our village would be in a sorry state without them.

Keep up the good work in 2008 and call Kevin on 086 2456272 with any suggestions or offers of help.

Heritage Arts and Culture

Chairperson Joe Murphy

Clarinbridge has a rich heritage going right back to the very earliest people to arrive in Ireland, evidence of whom, we can still find in the piles of middens or oyster shells located along our shores. It is the duty of every generation to preserve the legacies of the past be it the artefacts, ruins or folklore of those who have gone before us. The traditions and culture of our community is part of what we are and it is a source of education and interest to visitors but more importantly to ourselves and our children.

Over the past year the CCDA erected stone plaques in village Green, the parish hall and Clarinbridge National School. These plaques highlight the legacy of the

Redingtons, the Christian Brothers school and Raifteiri, an File. They were erected with the support of Galway County Council. Other plaques will be erected shortly to make people aware of the interesting history of our village.

The arts and culture of Clarinbridge parish is reflected in our GAA games, Irish music, the use of our Irish language and in events such as the Arts Festival, the Oyster festival, art exhibitions, the Market day, drama and school projects. There are a wide range of groups and individuals involved in these events who partake in them for their own enjoyment and the benefit of the community. One event over the past year which deserves special mention was the joint art exhibition between Kilcornan Training Centre, the national schools in Clarinbridge and a group of children in Guatemala supported by Mary Murphy, who is partaking in voluntary work in the Central American country. Works of art from Kilcornan art group and Guatemalian children are on display in the foyer adjoining Kilcornan Swimming pool.

It is important as a community, that we continue to promote our culture and heritage. CCDA has recently received a grant of 1,000 euros from Galway Co. Council to produce a guide of our heritage sites. As the population of Clarinbridge community continues to grow and we become more urban in character, it is more important than ever that we recognise what is important to preserve and promote. We are fortunate to have many historical and natural features on our doorsteps examples of which are Kilcornan forest, the Cowpark, an extensive coastline, Rahasane turlough, rich traditions and folklore and many historical buildings, Lets appreciate them! ...Joe Murphy, Heritage and Arts Committee

Social Affairs

Chairperson Paula Lee

Community Alert

The Clarinbridge Community Alert group has been active again this year, under the direction of Mike Kerrigan as chairperson. It has been liaising regularly with local Garda representatives relating to community security issues. Members from the group met with CARA to highlight security measures that can be taken in every home to prevent unwelcome visitors. There is a public meeting planned this spring where each local area will be allocated a community alert representative. This individual will then help promote awareness of security issues in that area. This initiative will help to make our community a safer place to live. For details or if interested in joining contact Mike Kerrigan 0862308896.

CARA - Clarinbridge Active Retirement Association

In its first year CARA had had over 35 members from the parish of Clarinbridge and surrounding areas. The Chairperson was Sr. Joanna, Secretary Ann Sherry and Treasurer Nancy Collins. Meetings of the executive were held at regular intervals to plan the various activities.

The objectives of the Association are:

- To provide a focal point for active people who are retired and in the 55 plus age group to meet and engage in educational, cultural, sporting and social activities.
- To promote the spirit of self-help and independence and to encourage members to use their energy, talents, skills, knowledge and experience to benefit each other and the community.
- To encourage a positive attitude to ageing and retirement.

CARAs 'Get Together' sessions took place each Wednesday night in 'Suaimhneas' and the enjoyable activities included games, quizzes, visiting speakers and flower arranging. Entertainment was supplied by local artists who provided music, singing, story telling, interviews and videos of various festivals etc. CARA is most grateful to these participants.

The group went on two outings during the year, one to Coole Park and another to the 'Village' nursing home and both occasions were most pleasant. Members also attended some of the 'Supper Club' nights. The committee is grateful to the many people who have given of their time and services towards the enjoyment of these events.

The group meet every Wednesday night in Suaimhneas. A wide variety of topics such as literature, music, the arts, security and flower arranging but to name a few are discussed. Non members are welcome as visitors if a particular topic is of interest. Details about CARA are available at the parish office, 091 776741. As the Association goes forward into its second year, they are receptive of any suggestions or ideas regarding events or activities that should take place to enhance the development of the Association. ***'REMEMBER WE CAN DO ANYTHING TOGETHER'***

Planning and the Environment

Chairperson Frank Snowden

2007 saw the first "Local Area Plan" for Clarinbridge. Local Area Plans are a County Council planning design process for designated towns, areas with a population over 2000 requiring economic, physical and social renewal or areas likely to be subject to large scale development. In preparation for Clarinbridge first local area plan, the CCDA undertook an extensive survey of approximately 900 homes in Clarinbridge and its environs in 2003/4.

The results of this survey formed the basis of a CCDA submission to the Galway County Council on the ensuing local area plan. Many other submissions were also received by the County Council prior to the

publication of the Draft Local Area Plan (LAP) in October 2006. The draft plan and the S.E.A (Strategic Environmental Assessment) were on public display for a period of six weeks from 12th October 2006 to 24th November 2006

The CCDA hosted a public meeting in the Clarinbridge Court Hotel on November 9th 2006 to facilitate the interpretation of the plan by the public. People were encouraged to make submissions, and the CCDA also collected submissions which were forwarded to Galway County Council on behalf of members of the public.

A total of one hundred and sixteen (116) submissions were received by the County Council within the allocated timeframe of six weeks. On receipt of these submissions, all relevant submissions were referred to the relevant sections within the County Council for comment. These sections included Water Services, Environment, and Roads section.

A "Managers Report" was published by the planners to our elected councillors. This Manager's Report forms part of the statutory procedure for preparing a Local Area Plan. The report examines the issues raised in the submissions. The Manager's comments on the issues are laid out in the response, together with his recommendations. All of the submissions sent in by various individuals and groups underwent assessment by the planners.

The Planning and Development Act provides a six week period for the Elected Members to consider this report and to consider the proposal to make, amend or revoke the Plan. The making of the Clarinbridge Local Area Plan is carried out by resolution of the Council. Seventeen Material Alterations (amendments) to the Draft Plan were requested by the elected councillors.

Submissions on the Material Alterations to the Draft LAP could be made to Galway County Council by Friday March 30th 07. Submissions were accepted by the County Council on changes between the draft LAP (of Oct 2006) and the published LAP (of March 3rd 2007). The Council meeting to determine the outcome of the Clarinbridge Local Area Plan took place on May 28th 2007.

The adopted Clarinbridge Local Area Plan 2007 – 2013 and related maps and documents are available to download from the County Council web site at the below URL.

http://www.galway.ie/en/services/planning/local_area_plans/clarinbridge/clarinbridge_table.htm

Alternatively visit www.galwaycoco.ie. In the search field, type in Local Area Plans and then search for Clarinbridge.

Frank and the CCDA would like to extend their thanks to Mary Rogers, Tony Cawley, Mark Green and Frank Bannon who helped form an experienced Planning sub-committee in the challenging time approaching the LAP.

Chairperson Peter Boland Clarinbridge GAA Club

Clarinbridge has one of the biggest and most active GAA clubs in the county. With 220 adult members and nearly 200 juvenile members, the club fields 22 teams between hurling, camogie and juvenile hurling, and football. At the elite level, players from the club were on the county Senior, U-21 and Minor squads in 2007.

In 2007 the Senior team made it to the County Championship quarter-final before falling to the eventual county champions, Portumna. The same happened at Minor level where the team fell to eventual champions Turloughmore. The juvenile teams continue to perform well and the juvenile football teams, although relatively new to the club, have started to show great promise.

If you are out and about in the parish on a Saturday night you will notice volunteers selling lotto tickets for the club. This is a vital element of fundraising for the club and all contributions are greatly appreciated. The club also arranges a golf classic during the year and the Club Social was held Saturday the 15th of March at the Clayton Hotel.

Volunteers for becoming involved in the GAA should contact Cyril Thornton, Clarinbridge GAA club: 087 6422139

Clarinbridge Ladies Football Club & Juvenile Club

The Clarinbridge Ladies Football Club & Juvenile Club currently comprises 36 adult members and 36 juvenile members. This year the Under 12's completed the double by bringing both the County League and Championship titles to the 'Bridge. The under 14's progressed to the semi final of the Championship. The Junior C's made it to the quarter final stage of the County Championship and also won the Stella Mangan Shield in the Caherlistrane 7's held in November. Off the pitches, the club ran a very successful fundraising social night at the Galway Dog Track in October. Volunteers for becoming involved should contact Fiona Dwyer at Clarinbridge Ladies Football tel: 086 8314031

Colga FC

The 2006/2007 Season was very active and very successful for Colga FC and 2007/2008 is shaping up well. The club now has 420 registered juvenile players plus 2 adult teams all playing soccer regularly.

The Colga senior men's team were promoted to the Galway District League Premier Division having won the 1st Division, prompting great celebrations in the village. The Girls U-12s won the Galway District League and League Cup. They then went on to represent Galway in Connacht and having achieved 3rd in Connacht, went on to represent Galway in the All-Irelands in Dublin, finishing third overall nationally.

The boys U-12s traveled to a major under-age tournament in Liverpool and reached the semi-finals. They also won the tournament achievement award.

Both the boys U-13s and U-14s represented Colga at a major Manchester international tournament. Both teams reached the semi-finals of the Shield competition.

A very successful summer camp for the juveniles was run over two weeks in July with coaches travelling from Everton.

Planning permission for the club's new grounds at Roveagh has been submitted and in the meantime, the two pitches at Casey's Cross are being used. The club ran a very successful social in the Clayton on December 7th and a children's party for over 200 children in the Clarinbridge Court before Christmas.

Volunteers for becoming involved should contact Mike Bindon at Colga FC tel: 087 7706521

Walking

The Oyster Walking Club was formed in January 2004. Its aim is to promote hill-walking & discovery of our environment for a wide age group. During the past year the club has completed walks in the Burren, Connemara, East Clare and other locations locally. Activities throughout the year included a fantastic weekend walking on Achill Island at the end of June and a Mountain skills introduction course for those interested in navigation and leading walks.

The club held a very successful Open Night in November, featuring a display/talk on clothing/safety gear recommended for hill-walking and slide-show presentations on walking in the Burren, Connemara, Croatia and Spain. The programme of walks for the coming season will include a mixed variety of walks, from easy road walks to challenging hill walking and this will be published/updated on www.clarinbridge.ie (under clubs and societies).

For further information, contact, Deirdre Matthews (087) 6489623 or Breda Kealy (086) 3966079

Clarinbridge Golf Society.

Captain Ray Mullins and the society had a busy year with eight regular outings to local golf clubs from Connemara Golf Club in Ballyconneely to Roscrea Golf Club, and those in between.

The society was represented in the inaugural Friendship cup in Gort Golf Club on May 19th, finishing a respectable third. This year saw the first President of the society; the honour was bestowed on John O'Neill, one of the founding members of the society.

A very successful Oyster County Classic was held in Gort Golf Club on Friday 7th September. This is an Open Golf Competition run in conjunction with the Clarinbridge Oyster Festival.

In October the club had a wonderful weekend away in Belmullet, the weather was beautiful and Carne Golf Club proved to be a great test.

The society AGM was held in November with the 2008 positions as follows: Captain 2008 Patricia Reddy, President Jim Dunne. Anyone interested in joining see www.clarinbridge.ie and follow the golf society link, or email clarenbridgegolf@eircom.net.

Clarinbridge Drama Group

2007 was a very enjoyable year, commencing with the staging a moving production of Marina Carr's "The Mai", in the Clarinbridge Court Hotel at the end of March (23rd to 25th).

The second production of the year "The Zoo Story" by Edward Albee was staged for the Art's Festival, on October 5th. Subsequent staging of the play were done in Gort and Kinvara, 12th & 13th October.

Rehearsals for the next production commenced in October for “Feuding Families” written by Seamus Broderick of Loughrea. The show ran from 25th to 27th of January 2008, enjoyed by large crowds on each night. The Clarinbridge Drama Group is open to anyone interested in taking part or giving a hand. Anyone interested can contact any member of the group or email k_reddy@eircom.net for details. Chairperson of the group is Michael Lacey.

Proms on the Green

The Clarinbridge Community Development Association (CCDA) hosted an afternoon musical Event in the Village Green on Sunday July 22nd. The St. Patrick’s Brass played and admission was free. Although there was some rain, a fun time was had by all.



Clarinbridge Village Picture

The image of Clarinbridge at the top of this newsletter was captured Sunday 19th August 2001, and featured in the Clarinbridge Oyster Festival Arts Exhibition of Autumn 2001. The panoramic picture consists of an amalgamation of 23 images taken and assembled by local photographer Tony Brown. In 2006 the Clarinbridge Community Development Association (CCDA) purchased the copyright to this composition.

The CCDA is pleased to bring to the community, in conjunction with Mr. Frame a framed village picture of the dimensions approximately **20cm * 90cm (8 inches * 3 feet)**. The mount size is approximately 4.5cm. The frame is of flat pine with a dark oak stain approximately 2cm (1 inch thick). This picture is available to see and purchase from Mr Frame (Oscar Keary) No. 62 Briarhill Business Park Castlegar Phone Number 763000. Price 100 Euro.

Supporting the CCDA

The CCDA would like to extend their thanks to those who have kindly made donations in support of our endeavours. We would like to extend thanks to the Galway County Council for their support, and to Fr Dermody for the use of his facilities. Thank you also to

Brain Carr for the use of the Dunbulcaun Room at Paddy Burkes for the CCDA AGM.

Address from the Chairperson CCDA

Address from the Chairperson, Hannah Kiely

When I took over the role of chairperson of CCDA in December 2006 – I could not have foreseen the year that it turned out to be. It was a year where the direction of Clarinbridge was decided upon and the outcome of that will mould the future of our village from here on in. The year was dominated by the L.A.P. and its eventual adoption by the Galway County Council – thus determining how we are going to live and work in Clarinbridge in the future.

At our very well attended public meeting many voices were heard and issues raised. But the overriding issue for the majority of people was the great desire to ensure the village retains its special uniqueness in whatever development takes place and that the special place the Oyster Beds play are protected and safeguarded in times ahead.

We did not achieve everything we wanted, and yes the voting structures that prevail are probably less than favourable – but we had to and will continue to have to work within the parameters that exist. I believe we successfully achieved a ‘reasonable’ outcome – bearing in mind the procedures for lobbying that existed in our less than perfect local government structure. But without going over all the outcries and debates which would be futile, I believe we as an organisation succeeded in “taming” the potential for overdevelopment and “allowing” some changes to the L.A.P.

Going forward it is not the Association’s intention to be a nuisance objector to every application – we accept the adoption and will work with it. We will however observe and lodge observations especially around the lack of a proper sewage supply and piecemeal sewage solutions.

To each and all who worked together in 2007 to make this a unique place and to my very dedicated team in the CCDA a most sincere thank you.

From my own point of view – it has been an extremely challenging year – but I firmly believe in life that we all each and everybody must work for the community we live in. It is no longer enough to sit on the fence. It is far worse to sit on the fence and criticise. So today I thank all those people who worked during the year to make Clarinbridge a great place to live, to work, and to grow.

Hannah Kiely,
Chair-C.C.D.A.