

May/June 2017

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community initiative

NEWSLETTER

Well, it's been a hectic few weeks in of Ashbourne. Hello to everyone, we hope you got out to some of the events that we had in April in the town. With the very successful Living History Festival & also Tradash; the town was alive with activity & events. There were vikings & musicians, fiddles & accordions, there were demonstrations & reenactments. There were costumes & weapons to be seen going back a 1000 years in the history of Co Meath. The buzz around the place which is monumental.

While many were away because of the Easter break, there was a great turn out. Many thanks to all those who came along to these events. Tola Collier of BOACC said that the event will take place again next year with viking & medieval focus. He is looking at running it in June & getting the schools involved in some history projects for students. Also the Tradash run; brilliantly named the Trad Dash, had a great turnout with about 300 involved. It was great encouragement for those running or walking to have the live music along the route to spur those on to completion. We would ask you the community to make a special effort to come out to these events. There is much to be gained from going to a community event. You get to understand what it means to be part of a community. If your community see you they will look after you, that is the Irish way.

Our Celtic brethren in Corcubion, Spain are due to meet about 15 to 20 persons from Ashbourne in July as part of the town twinning. They are having their own Medieval Festival. They share some of our culture. We are separated by language, not really in Ashbourne, as we have 700 students studying Spanish in the town. This will help our town greatly to form alliances, we can enhance our community by people, like our Spanish friends visiting us.



We also want to make a special mention of Cindy & Dan who are finishing up with ACI soon. They have been of brilliant assistance in preparing the newsletter each month, producing some great editions & the excellent special for Patricks Day. They did absolute mammoth work on the ACI auction and also poker event. Their final act will be to put in place a Dropbox calendar so that all community groups can see what is going on over the year in advance, online, to help them plan with their own events. Thanks again Cindy and Dan.

Thanks again to the Lions Club for their contribution & well done to St Declans. Please take special note of the call from the Youth Café for assistance. Congratulations to the Tidy Towns for 1st in anti-litter league. Brilliant work again by them & please think about giving a few hours to the tidy towns, youth café or any of these excellent community groups that do so much for the town and community. Chat soon and keep well!



Youth Cafe Update

It's been a long road the committee of the Café have endured over the last 4 years. From an inspirational idea shared between like minded people, finally the Youth Café is to become a reality, opening our doors at a date to be confirmed this September.

As most people, following our progress are aware, we secured a premises & signed an official lease over a year ago. Last November, builders & trades people have been working away in our unit on Declan Street. Presently, building work is almost complete, however, we are running tight on funding in particular due to various unforeseen costs associated with building regulations which we must meet in order to ensure that the young people using the facility are in a safe environment.

We are grateful for the support from everyone, in particular, local businesses, those from our 6 & 10k run, the Christmas tree collection & the community fundraising throughout the year. Last year, the Ashbourne golf club & the Celtic Old Vehicles Club donated the proceeds of their fundraising efforts. Later this month, we will be launching a Fund Me. Once the builders and crafts people have left the building, we need to furnish the unit to a high standard with cups & kettles to sound systems, & games to name just a fraction.

Check out our Facebook page for updates, we have a great team of volunteers who along with our friends in Fóroige. If you'd like to help out please email Kiri at ashbourneyouthcafe@gmail.com Volunteers receive full Fóroige training.



Congratulations to Saint Declan's Basketball Team

St. Declan's school basketball team has been very busy over the last couple of weeks. 12 girls and 12 boys were picked from the two 6th classes and have been training hard every Wednesday after school since January. The girls team made it all the way to the semi-finals. The team was made up of Hannah Tumbleton, Rebecca McCarthy Moore, Erin Browne, Jennifer Fox, Freya Dolan, Áine Robertson, Laura Bolster, Ana Farrell, Luka Ramanauskaite, Aimee Gore, Abigaile Sarmukaite and Ava Carroll.

The boys team travelled to Navan to play St. Anne's in their semi-final. After a very tough match, they came back from being down to win the game by one basket. The finals day took place on Friday 28th April in Trim Sports Centre. They were up against a strong Wilkinstown side. St. Declan's took home the cup winning 8-5. Captain Paddy O'Brien and vice-captain Brandon O'Beirne accepted the cup and plaque on behalf of the team. The boys team was made up of Paddy O'Brien (c), Brandon O' Beirne (vc), Adam Flynn, Jamie Smith, Jason Doyle Hand, Séan Tyrrell, Marcel Grabarczuk, Mark Blagaevschi, Ross Bedford, Karl Delahunty, Matthew Scanlon, Rhys Thomas and Emíls Jekabsons.

The picture below captures the winning team with the trophy, along with the Basketball team trainer Ms. Ciaralee Jenkinson and Evelyn O'Brien.



Ashbourne at the Credit Union Quiz

Congratulations to St Declan's National School who represented Ashbourne Credit Union in the final round of the Credit Union School quiz held in the RDS on Sunday 2nd April. Although they did not win they done very well and Ashbourne Credit Union are very proud of them. Pictured are Credit Union Youth Ambassadors Gary & Paul O'Donovan, ILCU President Brian McCrory and our contestants, Stephen Raftery, Eoin Byrne, Faye Eager and Matthew King. The Regional round was held in the pillo Hotel on Friday 3rd March and we had St Mary's Garristown and St Declan's Ashbourne representing Ashbourne Credit Union.



Community Diary

Crafts for Adults - Ashbourne Library, Every Tuesday.
6.00pm - 8.30pm, Contact Áine on (01) 835 0609

Saturday Lego Club for Kids - Ashbourne Library
Saturdays Ages 6 and under 12pm-1pm, Ages 7+ 1pm-2pm. Thursdays Ages 4+ €6 per session, contact Cathy 0861700215

Ashbourne Special Olympics - Community Centre
Every Saturday 10am-11.30am

Ashburners Cycling Club - Every Saturday and Sunday
8.00 and 10.00 am, Ashbourne Retail Park.
Beginners always welcome.

Crafts for Adults Group - Every Tuesday from 6.00pm – 8.30pm. Learn a new or old craft or share your craft experience. Library. Contact Aine on (01) 8350609

Meditation classes with Homeopath Lynda Boxwell
Every Thursday at 7pm. Learn the art of meditation for relaxation and self healing with Counsellor Linda Boxwell. call 085 149 1577, €8 per class.

Scouts Club - Gaelscoil Na Cille, Friday 7.30pm - 9.30pm

Cubs Club - Gaelscoil Na Cille, Fridays 7.30pm - 9.30pm

Beavers Club - Gaelscoil Na Cille, Every Friday 6.30pm

Over 55's Exercise Class - Every Tuesday & Friday
10.00am – 11.00am. €8 per class. Focuses on improving health and well-being. Call Catherine on 087 288 3729

Adult Bridge Club - Every Monday morning at 10.30am
Contact Martin on 0879978610. New members welcome.

Visit us at: ashbournechamber.ie/our-groups/ashbourne-community-initiative

You can now Download the ACI Newsletter for your mobile or tablet device.



The Ashbourne Tidy Towns Organisation

The Ashbourne Tidy Towns Organisation, are a voluntary group with a single objective: to keep our town and the surrounding area clean, tidy and a pleasant place to live. This is a long established nationwide competition run annually during the summer months. The competition is run by the Department of the Environment and is sponsored nationally by Super Valu.

The Anti Litter League is organised and sponsored by Meath County Council who provide litter picking equipment and several prizes, many in cash, for the winning groups. The Tidy Towns also participate in the Pride of Place Initiatives each year. Ashbourne has been successful in winning several awards in various categories in recent years. Winning housing estates include Garden City and Crestwood, Milltown Estate and Brookville. Floral display recent winners include Ashbourne House Hotel and Jenny's Boutique/Conway's Pharmacy. The Committee regularly advises members of the community of their responsibilities and liabilities in the field of Litter Pollution.

The Tidy Towns Committee continually seeks new members to participate in our activities. We act, mainly, as a co-ordinating body and thus welcome representatives from other bodies, such as Residents' Associations, Estate Management Companies and others with a common interest. Individuals are also welcome to join our group and our meetings are open to the public. If you are interested in getting involved, you can contact the Tidy Town's Chairman, John Fanning on 087 260 1956, or Meath County Council Pride of Place/Litter League at 046 909 7401. You can also contact them on facebook at facebook.com/AshbourneTidyTown or their official website at ashbourneparish.ie/news/parish-life/tidy-towns



The Lions Club Coast2Coast Charity Cycle

On Saturday May 27th, 70 local cyclists take in the Lions Club Coast2Coast Charity Cycle in Aid of "Make a Wish Foundation" and Abacas Autism Support.

This challenging journey is over 230km and will travel from the Atlantic Ocean at Galway Bay to the Irish Sea at Laytown Co. Meath. This will be the 3rd Coast2Coast cycle challenge and the numbers of participants this year have doubled, a direct reflection on the success of this annual event. The charity cycle was launched with thanks to our very own Johnny Logan at Dominos Pizza, who are proud sponsors of the event for the last 3 years. The cyclists recently held a static cycle in Tesco's to help raise awareness of the event and its charities. Now that the countdown is on, please lend your support to anyone who is taking part in the event or please make a direct donation at: www.idonate.ie/register-donor-payment.html

Your support is greatly welcomed. Why don't you get involved in next years Cycle Challenge? Please email LionsAshbourne@gmail.com for more information. The Lions Club would also like to formally thank the local Ashburners Cycle Club for their continued support and commitment to the event and would welcome anyone interested in joining the club to get in touch on Facebook.



Looking Back at TradAsh 2017

Ashbourne was set alive, on the 20th of April with Irish Music and Songs with the 8th TradAsh Irish Music Festival. The feedback received was that this years event was another huge success and encompassed additional family focused events such as Irelands first Trad DASH 5km and 10km running event which was held in Aid of Muscular Dystrophy Ireland, with local musicians in position along the route to encourage the runners as they ran.

Over the weekend's events, local musicians were join by musicians from as far away as Liverpool, Mayo and Bray. The music sessions were free to attend. The TradAsh committee are committed to harnessing all of the local Irish music traditions in the area, encouraging the next generation to carry these traditions as part of a family focussed festival. With that focussed vision, this year local music teacher Gillian Power and the students of "The Thrill of Music School" performed a number of tunes to a room packed with TradAsh attendees, a huge success that demonstrated that Irish music will continue to thrive locally and nationally forever. All of the children were awarded with TradAsh t-shirts and certificates of attendance by the TradAsh committee members. This year, a number of the TradAsh Musicians will travel to Corcubion, Spain to participate in their annual festival. Musicians will also travel to Boston where they have been invited to perform at the Boston Irish Cultural Centre as part of their annual festival. This will help to further spread the TradAsh name and encourage musicians and visitors to next years event in the town.

The TradAsh committee would like to thank the local venues for their continued support for the TradAsh festival and for their continued support during the year, these are: The Fox's Den, Swan's of Curragha, The Stags Head, Ashbourne Court Hotel, Mollys Bar, and The Fox Inn Ballymadun. Please check out TradAsh on social media and keep in touch during the year for more traditional music events and join in next years TradAsh Music festival in April.



"Aftermath" of the Battle of Ashbourne, A Century Later!

April 22nd & 23rd saw Vikings, Romans, Musketeers, Redcoats & Irish Volunteers invade Donaghmore-Ashbourne GAA Club for the first Living History Festival. This free family event was the largest gathering of historical re-enactors & historians ever assembled in South Meath. Saturday opened with a weapons demonstration & uniforms from 1690's Battle of the Boyne, followed in the afternoon by cannon fire, pikes clashing & muskets as a battle from the 1798 Rebellion was re-enacted. Throught out the weekend visitors to the indoor & outdoor exhibitions met Norsemen, Centurions & other soldiers from the past 800 years of Irish history. On show were vintage cars like the 1913 Ford & Rolls Royce Wrath & military vehicles from 1916 to 2003. Historical expertise was provided by Dr Gabriel Doherty, Pádraig Allen, Noel French, Marcus Howard, Lord Edwards Own, BOACC, The OPW & Fingal Living history Society.

The Festival was organised by BOACC who re-enacted the Battle of Ashbourne for the 1916 Commoration. This year BOACC brought Ashbourne's history to national prominence as part of the 2017 commemoration of Thomas Ashe, displaying a wealth of history from the struggle for independence. There was great interest in the Irish Prison Service exhibition with never before seen exhibits from Mountjoy prison, where Thomas Ashe was incarcerated & eventually died on September 25th 1917. Other exhibitors included the Irish Volunteers Commemorative Organisation & the Dublin Brigade Historical Society. On Saturday night the film *Fingal's Finest* by Tile Media was shown telling the story of Thomas Ashe & the Battle of Ashbourne, features historian Tóla Collier & the BOACC re-enactors. Another film; *Reel: Irish Women* highlighted the overlooked role of women in the Rising.

Sunday saw a major re-enactment of the War of Independence involving Irish Volunteers ambushing a convoy of British soldiers. Into the ensuing battle drove an armoured Rolls Royce, its machine guns chattering in support of the dreaded Black & Tans, the battle ended in Irish victory. Ending with a parade & ceremony to commemorate the centenary of Thomas Ashe, the ceremony featured a reading of Thomas Ashe's famous poem *Let me carry your cross for Ireland Lord* by Béibhinn Collier. A wreath was then laid on behalf of Ashbourne & Meath by Sean Boylan who had flown back from America to take part. Three volleys of shots were then fired & Michael Collin's speech at Thomas Ashes Funeral re-enacted. The Decade of Centenaries continues until 2022 & BOACC are involved in a growing schedule of events throughout Ireland. Plans are also underway for next year's Living History festival find out more on the web at www.battleofashbourne1916.weebly.com.

