

HIDDEN GEMS AND FORGOTTEN PEOPLE  
**NAAS LOCAL HISTORY GROUP**



**TOWN HALL CLOCK – OLD FATHER TIME**

Naas Town hall presents a fine spectacle on the Main Street with its impressive façade. This historic building tells its own story but very much a part of that story is its unique and ornamental Town Clock. Perched high up on the front wall this attractive double dial faced clock was first installed in 1866 and paid for by public subscription. The year 1904 evident on the building refers to the date when the buildings façade was reconstructed by a James Eacret. However the mechanism that keeps the clock running on time to-day is the 1866 original and was supplied by a John Chancellor of Dublin. Two weight driven pulleys drive the mechanism – one for the clock and one for the chime. The chime, no longer in use, was produced by a bell situated in a louvered shelter on the roof. The bell bears the inscription “Sheridan 1866” and also a harp with an inscription “Eireann Go Bragh”.

An interesting story dates from 1957 when a Mr. J. Coleburn, watchmaker, wrote to the Town Clerk complaining about being only paid £4 a year for winding the clock. His complaint was subsequently rewarded and he was duly paid an increase to £10 per year. The clock mechanism was last restored by horologist Julian Crosby in 1986.