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Government of Ireland



Caring for our environment

Administered by the
Department of Rural & Community Development

Supporting the
Sustainable Development Goals

Think Global – Act Local



SuperValu Tidy Towns Newsletter Issue 2020-7

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A Chairde,

Welcome to our October issue of the SuperValu Tidy Towns newsletter. We hope you are all well and getting to enjoy the changing of the seasons. We have already had some of our first ground frosts and the trees are displaying such a wonderful array of autumnal colours.

The pandemic is still very much with us and varies from county to county; we must all continue to play our part in suppressing the unwelcome visitor that has changed our lives in so many ways these past months. We must continue to be responsible in our actions and curtail our interaction with people in so far as we can; it really is in our hands to reduce the spread of the coronavirus.

We want to once again thank those who have submitted articles to us, there really is such a positive approach out there, we should all take courage and inspiration from the great work being done by all the dedicated volunteers. This month we bring you a message from Minister Heather Humphreys TD as she looks forward to working with you all into the future.

We also bring you news of recent winners whose stories have really demonstrated community at its best. We are delighted to announce a Photography Competition that will run for the next couple of months. Autumn presents such wonderful photo opportunities make sure to get out there and grab them it might be worth your while.

We wish you all well in the coming weeks, stay safe, stay strong and stay vigilant, together we can all do our bit. Remember to look out for the vulnerable in our community as we head into winter, a phone call could make such a difference.

Go raibh míle maith agaibh go léir!

New Minister

Heather Humphreys TD was appointed as Minister for Rural and Community Development in June 2020 with responsibility for the SuperValu TidyTowns competitions. She was also assigned the Social Protection portfolio. Prior to this, she served as Minister for Business, Enterprise and Innovation from 2017 to 2020.



As Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Minister Humphreys led the successful 2016 Centenary Programme and during her time as Minister with responsibility for Rural Affairs, she launched the Action Plan for Rural Development in 2017.

Message to TidyTowns Groups from Minister Humphreys

It is my great pleasure to have been assigned responsibility for the Rural and Community Development portfolio, which includes the SuperValu TidyTowns competition.

In recent years, I have been honoured to preside over some of the SuperValu TidyTowns regional award ceremonies, where I saw first-hand the dedication and commitment of the TidyTowns volunteers.

It is very evident when I pass through a town or a village with an active TidyTowns presence.

I see that attention to detail, as well as the sense of welcome and hospitality that is visible from the work you carry out.

The TidyTowns competition has evolved over the years and adapts to our ever-changing society, and I hope that will continue in the years to come.

With the help of the TidyTowns groups all over Ireland who protect our built, natural and cultural heritage, we can be confident that we will ensure future generations can also enjoy the wonderful tapestry that we have inherited.

While 2020 was not the year we had all planned and hoped for, I know that TidyTowns groups continue to work in a safe way to enhance their areas and prepare for next year's competition.

I very much look forward to working with you all and with our sponsors, including our main sponsor, SuperValu, who have been loyal supporters of the competition for almost 30 years. I wish you all the very best in your endeavours.

Keep up the great work.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Heather Humphreys". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Raphoe TidyTowns – Co. Donegal

We received an email from Raphoe TidyTowns which shows how much can be done by one volunteer, this just goes to show what could be achieved when everyone in the community puts their shoulder to the wheel.

We have all heard about different supports and special work carried out over recent months due to Covid – 19. I write to your organisation to share with you and to let you know of the remarkable voluntary work carried out by a local man in Raphoe Co. Donegal, which commenced in March 2020 at the beginning of Covid –19 and is still ongoing. Mr Christy Murray took on the huge task of cleaning all the rural approach roads and roadsides of litter. To date he has collected hundreds of bags. One special project he took on was to clean a small wooded area about a mile from Raphoe town.

A small burn runs through the wood and falls as a waterfall above and below the roadway that runs through from Raphoe to Convoys. As far as I know, Christy has cleaned up almost 350 bags of litter (4.4 Tonnes) from this beautiful area.



Some of the litter and rubbish can be dated to over 70/80 years ago. This man deserves huge credit for this work and his great love of the local environment. I have shared a video of him on the Raphoe TidyTowns Facebook page.



I know the area well and the terrain is very dangerous especially below the Convoys road at the bridge where the waterfall descends, that said it is a beautiful place and to have it cleaned up by one person is such a remarkable and unbelievable achievement.

Well done Christy for your Trojan work in this area, the community of Raphoe must be very proud of you and rightly so. Indeed the County are indebted to you for such commitment and service to making your place a cleaner, safer, more welcoming place.

In the midst of a time which brought so many difficulties and struggles to our doors, here we see one man who didn't sit and let it get to him, mind over matter, what a fantastic result.

Congratulations Christy on your efforts.

Ennis TidyTowns – Fact Sheet No. 5 - Sustainable 10K



SUSTAINABLE 10K ENNIS TIDY TOWNS



065-6842988, 0872787463

INFO@ENNISTIDYTOWNS.COM

WWW.ENNISTIDYTOWNS.COM

FACEBOOK.COM/ENNISTIDYTOWNS

@ENNISTIDYTOWNS

BACKGROUND TO IDEA

Ennis Tidy Towns were approached by our local athletics Club, Ennis Track. They were hosting their annual adults 10k and kids 2k road race and wanted to make it more sustainable.



HOW IT WAS DELIVERED

- Printing was significantly reduced
- Compostable, not plastic, cups used
- Large reusable water canisters purchased
- All waste segregated
- Reusable bottle prize for all children



RESULTS

- Early engagement with Ennis Track meant there was a lot of lead-in time to make the necessary changes, including approaching companies to donate items like the compostable cups. They also said entrants are expecting more sustainable races!
- The kids bottles, €452.73 for 200, were a nice keepsake and promoted reuse.
- Waste was segregated by Tidy Towns volunteers -2kg went to landfill with 25kg going for composting (cups, fruit, etc.) accepted FREE OF CHARGE by the company
- The initiative kickstarted the development of our reusable Community Cups project
- We are now permanent 'Sustainability Partners' with Ennis Track on this and other events to help reduce the impact on the environment

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDG) ACHIEVED



Here again this month we are delighted to feature another sustainable fact sheet courtesy of Ennis TidyTowns. This is the fifth sheet in the series.

In this month's fact sheet, we read all about the approach taken with their local Athletics Club, Ennis Track to make their 10K event a sustainable event.

This venture has resulted in Ennis TidyTowns becoming permanent "Sustainable Partners" with Ennis Track.

In keeping with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's), we see here how three of the goals have been met by this project including, Responsible consumption and production. In total Ennis TidyTowns in their five fact sheets have delivered on 6 different SDG's whilst achieving some of the goals multiple times. Well done Ennis TidyTowns on this ongoing sustainable initiative.



Carrickmacross TidyTowns Ireland's First Recycle and Reward Reverse Vending of Plastic Bottles - Free Online Seminar



Almost a year ago, Carrickmacross TidyTowns Committee launched the country's first Deposit Return Plastic Bottle recycling machine. The object of the exercise was to bring attention to government and hopefully have the powers that be roll out the system nationally once the statistics gathered by the Carrickmacross TidyTowns Committee proved the success of the venture.

In the first three months of the pilot project, over 100,000 plastic bottles had been processed through the machine, far exceeding the committee's expectations. There were numerous enquiries from across the country relating to the project and an information

seminar was scheduled for March 2020 but, unfortunately, this had to be shelved due to the Covid 19 situation.



Carrickmacross TidyTowns Committee have now scheduled an online information seminar (webinar) for Wednesday, November 11th next at 7.30pm which will cover all aspects of the project and hopefully answer all queries relating to the venture which has been a huge success and is now part of government programme. The webinar can facilitate up to 500 participants and details of the invitation are listed below.

You are invited to an Online Zoom meeting on Ireland's First Recycle and Reward Reverse Vending machine hosted by Carrickmacross TidyTowns Committee on Nov 11th 2020 at 7.30 pm.

Please register in advance for this meeting using the link below.

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about the meeting.



<http://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwqfuyqpjojGdTWRdtTRU3-NzCfb-WBbWax>

Mulranny TidyTowns – Co. Mayo

2019 is a year that Mulranny TidyTowns will not forget in a hurry! The year commenced with the news that Mulranny had been chosen to represent Ireland in the village category of the prestigious Entente Florale competition. Initial trepidation soon gave way to a sense of self-belief and positivity as the news of the competition spread in the community. Offers of support and assistance flooded in to Mulranny TidyTowns committee as the wider community became engaged and motivated with a sense of purpose and determination to place Mulranny firmly on the European destination map.



European competition is not new to Mulranny, as Mulranny was designated a European Destination of Excellence (EDEN) in 2011, recognizing the outstanding local achievements; including the opening of the Great Western Greenway, the sensitive restoration of the stunning Mulranny Park Hotel, and the regeneration of Mulranny's Victorian Causeway and Look-Out Hill Walk.

Mulranny TidyTowns' 2019 year culminated in winning a silver award in Austria and two special certificates awarded for the environmental approach of Mulranny's Green Plan Group. The Old Irish Goat Society was awarded a Best Practice Award. The awards recognize the enormous community effort invested in the European competition. A bronze award in the national TidyTowns competition followed in September, noting our national adjudication took place early in the summer before much of Entente Florale work was completed for the adjudication in mid-July.



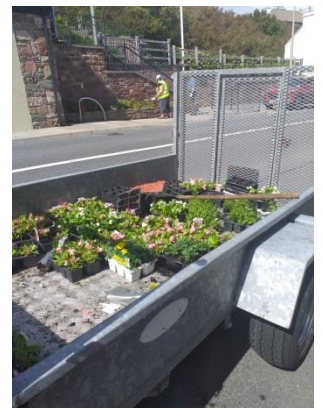
2020 commenced with gusto! Planning to build upon the momentum and euphoria of the Entente Florale competition in 2019, our 2020 TidyTowns plan was initiated at the first committee meeting in January. Our goal being a silver and dare we dream a gold award in the national competition. Various committee members undertook to participate in and complete the Public Participation Networks Climate Action Awareness Workshops and community training programs, identifying issues of concern, developing our knowledge and understanding of climate change issues, which we could incorporate into our TidyTowns plan for 2020 and beyond.

The community training workshops of Social Media Training for Community Groups and Writing Successful Funding Applications were of particular benefit and interest to the committee members.



A heritage project was identified in collaboration with our local Men's Shed Group and the restoration of a number of vernacular forged wrought iron field gates were identified as a conservation project. The causeway restoration project in conjunction with Mayo County Council was also top of the list for 2020 as major repair work was planned for one of our most scenic and utilized amenities in Mulranny. Mulranny TidyTowns members took part in the National Marine Planning public consultation framework for a Clew Bay masterplan.

Our invasive species project, supported by LA 21 funding commenced as our wildflower garden was identified as a major priority for 2020. However, by mid-March Covid 19 restrictions resulted in many of our projects being temporarily suspended and our members cocooning in line with government health guidelines. As the case with many of our colleagues in the TidyTowns community, our age demographic of members has a significant impact on the work that is carried out on a local level. Nonetheless, litter picking and maintenance of flowerbeds continued on an individual basis and as restrictions began to ease, our committee returned to flower planting and maintenance of our verges and green areas, while adhering to social distancing guidelines.



The support and enthusiasm of our Young TidyTowns members and Gaisce participants was invaluable at this time, as they eagerly picked up the responsibility of keeping their community litter free, while the older members were cocooning. Mulranny TidyTowns continues to promote and encourage Gaisce participants as part of our overall inclusion initiative to encourage younger members, particularly teenagers to become more active in the community. We are honoured to have a Young TidyTowns member achieve her Silver Gaisce Award earlier this year and hopefully she will continue her journey with Mulranny TidyTowns as she works towards her Gold medal.

Staycation became the buzz word of 2020 – and while our European and international visitors declined, Irish visitors from all four provinces of the country visited Mulranny in July and August, enjoying the spectacular scenery and available outdoor activities. The new challenges of discarded face masks, disposable gloves and paper towels were surmounted by the volunteers as litter-picking rotas increased.



The community once again became a hive of activity with many projects continuing in preparation for 2021; Mayo County Council finalized the plan for a community playground, contracts were signed with the appointed contractor for the project.



Mulranny National School received approval for the installation of an all-weather AstroTurf, which will benefit the wider community.

The Old Irish Goat Society worked frantically to open their new centre and Gift of Hands craft shop in August. Mulranny

TidyTowns submitted a project to the annual ULI CBRE Excellence in Placemaking Awards for 2020, having achieved the Connaught Award in 2019. All of these projects will keep Mulranny TidyTowns and community busy for the remainder of 2020 and 2021 as we embrace the “new normal” and move forward in hopeful anticipation of the return of the national competition in 2021.



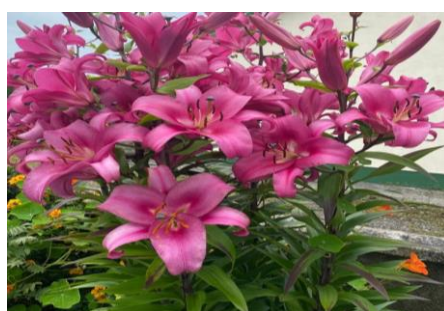
Well done to everyone in Mulranny TidyTowns, looking forward to welcoming you and all the other TidyTowns groups back to the competition next year. Keep working away on all those plans, we look forward to seeing the end results.

Williamstown Co. Galway Virtual TidyTowns 2020



When everywhere shut down we decided to stay connected VIRTUALLY through social media. We launched our Williamstown Virtual TidyTowns Facebook page. So through family, friends & neighbours near and far, we connected our community and environment during the challenging times by going online to celebrate local heritage and biodiversity.

We stayed at home, while at the same time doing work while maintaining social distancing, cutting the grass (remembering to leave area's for the pollinators!), planting bee-friendly flowers in the garden, feeding birds, preventing, reducing & segregating their waste, composting etc.....



Williamstown Virtual TidyTowns encouraged people to send in photos and descriptions of what they were doing to share with others. Poems, stories, If people were out for a walk near their homes they may have heard and seen some beautiful nature and wildlife, maybe a robin, blackthorn in bloom or the Cuckoo.

The Williamstown TidyTowns active group have a record of supporting their community and working to enhance the town and village. These included;

- Easter eggs were sponsored by local Williamstown businesses and distributed by local volunteers to our hospitals for health care workers.
- Competitions through Facebook including; photo's - crosswords- word searches - lovely voucher prizes for winners
- Sunset photo's
- Vegetables distributed from our tunnel to cocooners by volunteers
- Local St. Michael's school involvement with the theme sow-grow and eat!
- Updated locals with the protocols required when using the bog walk throughout the lockdown and the importance of getting up and going for a walk/stroll/run for mental health reasons and the benefits of getting fresh air.
- The Swifts bird's nest in the tower at national School thanks to James Coyne for giving us permission to install it.
- The sweepers came every 2 weeks thanks Tommy Maloney Galway Co. Co.
- Produced a video about our village which can be found on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hUT3iwpkwok>



We are so thankful to all of you who have contributed stories and articles for our Facebook over recent months. We are delighted with the engagement from all and the great community work that has continued throughout this difficult time. Congratulations to all who have demonstrated true community spirit and determination throughout.

Let's keep it going! We still want people to show what they are doing and to continue to send in photos etc.

and that it will be a legacy for future generations to see the very positive things that the community of Williamstown did during Covid19.

<https://www.facebook.com/Williamstown-Galway-Virtual-Tidy-Towns-104454217878591>

Well done to Noel and everyone in Williamstown TidyTowns for their can-do approach and for keeping in touch with and looking after all those in their community and beyond during the pandemic. Thanks for sharing with us all.

Geashill TidyTowns

Towards the end of August, a small number of our community met on a lovely sunny Tuesday evening to take the first tentative steps back into community work, albeit working in a completely different way. Like all Tidy Towns groups, we had been locked down and unable to work on many outdoor projects for a number of weeks and so there were plenty to choose from! We spent about an hour together (while working apart) and it was such a lovely feeling to be back out in the community, working apart but still able to interact with people, to catch up, to check in and see if people were doing ok, if anyone needed help, how people were feeling. We were also delighted to flex our collective muscles and get some work done!



For us so much of the work we do revolves around biodiversity and pollinators and they are embedded in almost everything we do! We stopped using herbicides in our village many years ago and our ethos has been a combination of the hoe and the hand. Lockdown allowed weeds to grow and flourish and also brought about some new thinking. Some areas that were traditionally weeded but that had been left to their own devices during lockdown produced the prettiest wildflowers full of buzzing bees and butterflies. Once we got back out, we made a conscious decision to leave some areas wild for the rest of the summer and only pull what was necessary.



We were delighted to have so many residents in our community who were happy to come back out and help us do the necessary weeding and great to see both young and old working side by side.



For us the early part of 2020 was the year of the tree! We were lucky to be involved in a fascinating project with master hedge layer Eoin Donnelly who re-laid a large section of hedge behind our local school, giving the children a great insight into the importance of native hedging. This project, funded by Creative Ireland, also involved something we have become quite good at, planting trees! Over the course of a few weeks and up until Covid hit, we were planting frantically, close to 300 trees in all. During those lockdown weeks when we were out getting our exercise it was heartening to see those tiny trees flourishing and putting out tiny buds and leaves.

Another great Biodiversity initiative has been our Pollinator Promise barrels. We started this in 2019 and it has been a wonderful project to be involved in. Barrel planters were offered to anyone who didn't have a grassed front garden on the understanding that they were to be planted with pollinator friendly flowers and shrubs.



We provided planting lists or advice when requested and worked with our local Glanbia who were able to also suggest suitable planting to people as well as donating a large number of pollinator friendly plants.



For many residents this was a change as people had to move away from Petunias, Begonias and Busy lizzies but the community really embraced this initiative and got real pleasure watching pollinating insects feeding on their wallflowers, salvias, lavender and more.



In 2020 and during lockdown with so many people getting involved in their gardens these barrels were even prettier and bursting with life and activity.



Like everyone else, we look forward to the time when we can come together again as a group for community events but in the meantime, we are trying to flex the way that we work and at the same time engage with the local community. We have lots of projects on the horizon that can safely be carried out while social distancing such as the planting of close to 1000 Spring bulbs donated by our local Irish Wildlife Trust which is an exciting initiative which we hope will offer opportunities for lots of people young and old to become involved.

Collaboration and co-operation have really been key to all of our project successes. From our local community, local schools and businesses, County Council, Heritage Officer, Biodiversity Ireland, Creative Ireland, Irish Wildlife Trust, the list goes on and on. Without all of their support, literally, we wouldn't have the village we do now and we look forward to continuing this work and hopefully making Geashill a great place in which to live and work.

Tell us your Story – Recent Prize Winners

We are most grateful to our main sponsor of the competition, **SuperValu**, who have been sponsoring the competition now for nearly 30 years. To acknowledge and applaud the great work you are all doing, **SuperValu** gift cards will be presented to two more groups this month. We have looked back over the last couple of issues of the Newsletter and again an independent manager in the Department has kindly selected two for us. They found the task very difficult, as there was such a verity of fantastic initiatives and each one full of positivity. Thanks Deirdre for selecting our two very worthy winners.

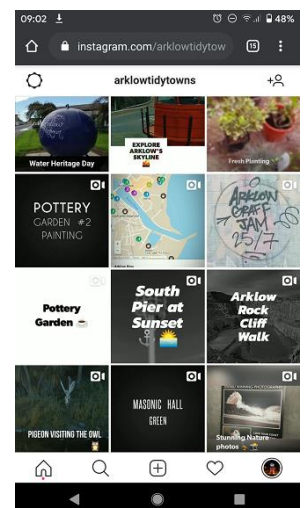
SuperValu
Real Food, Real People

In issue 5, Sligo TidyTowns said Thank You to all the front line workers who have tirelessly, given so much and continue to do so. The group transformed a number of areas in the town with colourful and moving murals, the artwork and the symbolism were just so uplifting and encouraging. They will serve as a reminder going forward.



Sligo TidyTowns also designed a postcard that was widely available so that everyone could thank individual workers that may have assisted them during the pandemic. Well done to everyone in Sligo TidyTowns for this fantastic project. A **SuperValu** gift card worth €100 is on its way to you.

In Issue 6 we read about the actions taken by Arklow TidyTowns in improving their social media presence and keeping the wider community aware of what is going on. They record short 1-minute videos on Instagram to connect with young and not so young members of the community and share what can be done with other TidyTowns groups. They post weekly videos of their Saturday projects and their Tuesday evening clean-ups. As we all try to keep up with the ever changing digital age. You are to be commended on the steps you are taking. As a result of this project, we are delighted to present you with a **SuperValu** gift card to the value of €50. It will be heading to all the team in Arklow TidyTowns in the near future.



Congratulations to Sligo and Arklow TidyTowns. Please send in your photos, poems, puzzles and stories to us for future issues. Thanks as always to **SuperValu** for sponsoring these prizes.

Congratulations!!!

Poets Corner

Last month we brought you a poem and we are delighted to feature one here this month from one of our own. Denis Heffernan from Emly TidyTowns very kindly sent this in to us to share with you all. If any of you feel the creative urge, go with it and share your thoughts and talents with the rest of your TidyTowns family.

Tidy Towns 2020 My Thoughts

To all our towns and villages across our native land
To adjudicator's one and all to the staff in Ballina
This little thought for all.

With a sad heart I write these couple of lines
With Covid 19 nothing is right
Next year will be better please god we hope
So keep the chin up until covid goes.

At this time of year the excitement would build
As we waited and counted the days for that trip
To the Helix in Dublin for All Ireland Day
To see who would be crowned Irelands Tidiest Place.

Denis Heffernan

5th September 2020

Thank you Denis for summing up so much in those few lines, such a vivid image they give us of the excitement in the Helix on one hand and how different this year has been as a result of Covid-19 on the other. Denis encourages us all to keep the chin up and that is what we must do. As the numbers fluctuate around the country, we must continue, each one of us, to play our part. Continue with the social distancing, the cough and sneeze etiquette, the wearing of masks and really, as hard as it is, we must try to limit our social interactions. It really is in our hands to minimise the spread of the virus, together we will fight this and look forward to brighter days.

Staycations & Walking Trails - Kilkenny

During the summer season, many took the opportunity to holiday at home or maybe just took day trips to see what is on offer in the neighbouring counties. I bet many were surprised, sometimes we don't see the wood for the trees and there is such beauty, culture and heritage in every county in Ireland, we just have to go and see it. Ireland is also a fantastic walking and hiking destination, we have some fantastic Way Marked trails, walking loops and an ever-increasing range of top quality greenways to walk or cycle; we really are spoilt for choice.

Aileen Champion took the time to share with us just a sample of what is on offer in Kilkenny for example with regard to walking and places to visit.

So get your walking boots on!

Castlecomer Loop has 2 looped walks: Ardra Loop: 6 km looped walk graded easy & taking 90 - 120 minutes and the Captains Loop: 4 km looped walk graded easy & taking 45 - 60 minutes

Also 2 linear walks: Ladies Walk 1.5 km & Arboretum Walk 2 km

<http://www.trailkilkenny.ie/activity-trail/walking-trails/castlecomer-loop/>



Mountain Grove Loop in Piltown is a 4 km looped walk graded easy & taking 60 - 90 minutes

<http://www.trailkilkenny.ie/activity-trail/walking-trails/mountain-grove-loop/>

Woodstock Loop in Inistioge has two looped walks: Woodstock looped walk graded as moderate & taking 60 - 90 minutes and the Ladies looped walk graded as moderate & taking 45 - 60 minutes

<http://www.trailkilkenny.ie/activity-trail/walking-trails/woodstock-loop-walk/>

Nore Valley Walk This linear walk is divided into 3 sections: Kilkenny City to Bennetsbridge: 11 km riverside walk graded as moderate

<https://www.alltrails.com/trail/ireland/kilkenny/nore-valley-walk-kilkenny-to-bennetsbridge>

<https://www.irishtimes.com/life-and-style/travel/ireland/go-walk-kilkenny-to-bennetsbridge-co-kilkenny-1.679691>

The Bennetsbridge to Thomastown which is 10KMs mostly on road and then the section from Thomastown to Inistioge which is 10.9 km walk and is graded as moderate

<https://outsider.ie/ireland/kilkenny-walks/>

These are just a sample of some of the walks in Kilkenny, why not visit; <https://www.sportireland.ie/outdoors/find-your-trails> to find out more about walking trails and indeed all trails in your part of the country.

Sport Ireland Outdoors is dedicated to promoting and supporting participation in all forms of outdoor sport in Ireland and supporting the sustainable development of this sector in Irish sport.



Outdoor sports includes all sport and physical activity that can be undertaken in natural outdoor settings and includes recreational walking, cycling, water sports and land based adventure sports.

In addition to the outdoor adventures, there is so much to see and do with regard to Culture, Craft and Food. Kilkenny has so much to offer here and again Aileen has kindly given us a flavour of what you can find on your next trip to the region.

Kilkenny Castle & Park

Medieval castle & 21 hectares of parkland, formal gardens, woodlands & pathways
Guided tours & self-guided tours of the castle. <http://kilkennycastle.ie/>

The Medieval Mile

Links Kilkenny castle to St Canice's Cathedral & on the way you will pass a Tudor inn, a Dominican abbey, medieval garden, historic buildings, cobblestone streets, hidden slipways & ending up climbing a round tower.

<https://www.medievalmilemuseum.ie/>

National Craft Gallery & Kilkenny Design Centre

Home to craft & design businesses, restaurant, cafe & food court.

<https://www.ndcg.ie/>

Castlecomer Discovery Park

Great family day out: Tree top walk, climbing wall, zipline, canoeing, archery, axe throwing, walking trails & Toy Story Trail. www.discoverypark.ie

Dunmore Caves

10 km from Kilkenny city with hourly access by guided tour only, audio visual & interactive virtual museum.

<https://www.heritageireland.ie/en/south-east/dunmorecave/>

Kilfane Waterfall & Glen, Thomastown

Dates from 1790s & listed as a Heritage garden complete with waterfall, bridges, stream, paths & fairytale cottage. <http://www.kilfane.com/>

Jerpoint Cistercian Abbey, Thomastown

Dating from 1160s & the most complete Irish Cistercian monastery

<http://monastic.ie/history/jerpoint-cistercian-abbey/>

Explore Woodstock Estate, Inistioge

Gardens are set in the period 1840 - 1890 complete with walled garden, terraced walk, yew walk, rose garden & arboretum with the tallest tree in Ireland.

<https://www.woodstock.ie/>

So if you are planning on seeing some of what our beautiful county has to offer make sure to plan your trip by visiting <https://www.discoverireland.ie/> and enjoy yourself.

Calling all our budding Photographers

Cheese!

We are looking for all you photographers out here, perhaps you are a dab hand at the photography or maybe you like to take the odd picture on your smart-phone.

Well which ever it is, The TidyTowns Unit wants to hear from you.

We are opening up a TidyTowns Photography competition and are looking for you to submit photographs to us which capture the ethos of TidyTowns or perhaps a project that your group have brought to fruition.

We have some cash prizes to give away to the lucky winners. Details on how to enter etc. are as follows;



- Photographs should be emailed to tidytowns@drcd.gov.ie stating which TidyTowns group you are from or if you are entering the junior element.
- Photographs should not contain close up images of other people unless you have received their permission to take and submit the photograph to this competition.
- The TidyTowns Unit will judge all entries and prizes will be awarded as follows;
- For TidyTowns groups or individual entries a first prize of €150 and second prize of €75 will be made to the TidyTowns group associated with the entry. There will also be a first prize of €75 and second prize of €50 for junior entries from the 12-18 years old age group. The prizes for the junior entries will be paid to the individual themselves.
- The TidyTowns Unit may use photographs submitted for social media or publications going forward.
- The closing date for entries is Friday November 20th.
- Results will be announced on Social Media and in the December Newsletter.



Good luck everyone.



<https://www.facebook.com/OfficialSuperValuTidyTowns>



<https://twitter.com/TidyTownsIre>



<https://www.tidytowns.ie>

Keep in Touch

Well that brings us to the end of another Newsletter. As always we hope you find the articles and initiatives interesting and maybe even inspiring, so many of the ideas we feature might well work in your part of the country, give it some thought and why not see if it could form part of your plan for the coming year.

Congratulations again to Sligo TidyTowns and to Arklow TidyTowns on their articles being selected as the most recent winners of **SuperValu** gift cards. We will be in touch in the near future to arrange getting those cards out to you.

SuperValu
Real Food, Real People

Thanks as always to our sponsors **SuperValu** for their support and sponsorship and for the support shown by the local retailers across the county.

Please keep the stories, poems etc. coming in and now with the competition; we hope to see all your photographs too. We will select two more stories from the October and November Issue and announce the recipients of **SuperValu** gift cards in the December newsletter. We will also announce the winners of our Photography competition at that time also. Hard to believe we are talking about December already.

So as always, we wish you all well, stay safe, keep adhering to the public health advice and keep up to date with guidance in your area as it may differ from other parts depending on where you live in the country. Look after yourselves and your older and vulnerable residents as we head into the darker evenings, which can be a lonely time for those living alone or in more rural areas.

As always, if we can help you in any way or if you have any queries about works you are planning for next year, we are here to help and provide any support we can. Please keep in touch through the TidyTowns website or on our social media. Feel free to call or email the office, we would love to hear from you.

Anne, Helen, John and all the team in The TidyTowns Unit

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