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## SuperValu Tidy Towns Newsletter

### Issue 2022-10

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Hi everyone,

We extend a warm welcome to all readers to our November issue of the SuperValu Tidy Towns Newsletter. We pass on our congratulations to all our winners who were announced at this year's awards ceremony on October 28<sup>th</sup> and in particular warm congratulations to Trim in Co. Meath who were named as Ireland's Tidiest Town for 2022.

We are working away on processing awards payments to cover the 321 awards announced by Minister Humphreys TD and the MD of SuperValu at the ceremony in the RDS. Many of you will by now have received your cash prizes; we are working on the remainder and hope to have all groups who are set up on our financial system paid before Christmas. We have reached out to groups who will need to be set up and will support you on this in any way we can.

We will be holding four regional awards ceremonies in early 2023, most likely from early February; these will be in Trim Co. Meath, Keadue Co. Roscommon, Blackwater Co. Wexford and Clonakilty in Co. Cork, these were named as regional award winners. More details on these events will issue in the New Year, at which all winners will received framed certificates and medals where applicable.

We are still accepting entries to the annual photography competition, more details on this can be found in the newsletter, in preparation for the Christmas issue, we would welcome your updates on projects, poems, stories or even a note on your trip to the RDS etc. It is your newsletter, so feel free to share.

At the awards ceremony last month, Minister Humphreys TD announced a €1.4 Million fund to support Tidy Towns groups in their initiatives and projects for the 2023 competition. Pobal who will administer the scheme on our behalf will contact all eligible groups, we would encourage all groups to engage with the process as soon as you receive your notification. Grant aid of between €1,000 and €4,000 is available to groups.

## SuperValu TidyTowns Awards 2022

There was fantastic excitement in the RDS on October 28<sup>th</sup> as over 750 TidyTowns volunteers from across the country gathered for the announcement of awards in the 2022 SuperValu TidyTowns competition.



Minister for Rural and Community Development Ms. Heather Humphreys, T.D. and Mr Ian Allen Managing Director of SuperValu who are loyal sponsors of the competition for over 30 years made the announcements.



Some of the special awards were presented on stage in addition to a special award to two of the national Adjudicators who have both given over forty years of service to the competition. Ms Ann O'Leary and Mr Éamonn De Stafort were surprised at the announcement and we congratulate them on their service and indeed look forward to them continuing to adjudicate for years to come.

The first of the main awards went to Rosscarbery in Cork West who were named as Ireland's Tidiest Village for 2022, Clonakilty also in Cork West were named as Ireland's Tidiest Small Town with Ennis in Clare retaining the title of Ireland's Tidiest Large Urban Centre.

Trim in Co. Meath were named as Ireland's Tidiest Large Town for 2022, also being named as overall winner and crowned as Ireland's Tidiest Town for 2022.



Please visit the TidyTowns website to view your adjudication report or to view the winning report from Trim. The results booklet can also be found by visiting the website on [www.TidyTowns.ie](http://www.TidyTowns.ie)

## In November We Remember

*Being part of TidyTowns is much more than it appears  
Its there that bonds are made that last for years and years  
Perhaps you liked to paint and fix or maybe plant and sew  
Others now remember you as they watch, what you planted grow*

*Foundation stones are crucial and no doubt, you laid your share  
So those that come after, can know that you were there  
Some people really leave their mark in everything thing they do  
In this month of November, we remember as we say -thank you*

*Nearly seventy years of TidyTowns and still it's going strong  
So many loyal friends and volunteers helped it come along  
Many are no longer with us, gone to green spaces new  
rest assured TidyTowns friends, we will always remember you.*

In recent weeks and months many of you have shared stories with us of volunteers and committee members who have sadly passed away in the last year or two during the pandemic and indeed since in more recent weeks.

This has been a very challenging time for volunteers and communities and getting back to a new sense of normal has been challenging. Getting back to that new normal without some of our friends and neighbours has made that transition even more difficult. Friends and neighbours that have formed us and have been there with us and for us through good times and bad.

Here in the TidyTowns unit, together with all of the TidyTowns family across the country, we extend our sympathy to all of you who have lost loved ones in recent times and in this month of November we remember those who have passed and hope that they will now enjoy eternal rest and reward for their hard work.



## PATRICKSWELL TIDY TOWNS CALENDAR LAUNCH

Sam Milburn, Chairperson of Patrickswell Tidy Towns in Limerick has been in touch to tell us about the launch of their calendar for 2023 which took place at The Dark Horse Bar on Wednesday evening the 9th of November and was a very enjoyable social occasion and community event.

Sam tells us they were delighted with the numbers in attendance to support us, and a steady flow of patrons all eager to get one, or two in some cases, ensured sales were off to a flying start. We know already that some of the calendars are already wending their way to Canada, Australia and the UK.

It is the group's first venture into the world of calendars as a fund raising idea because our usual events of a Coffee Morning or Quiz Night were curtailed during covid restrictions. The calendar has been superbly produced by Alan J. Lyne and the



printing and production of the calendar has been generously sponsored by many supportive Patrickswell businesses for which we are most grateful.

The photographs were chosen from a vast selection to reflect the work of the group throughout the year, and to portray how well the village, our home place, looks when it is in receipt of some loving care and attention, which it has been for the last twenty years or more. We are all very proud of Patrickswell, aren't we? We sincerely hope that it will bring great joy to its recipients especially those who live "across the miles" and that the various chosen shots will invoke many fond and precious memories for you all.

In offering the group's gratitude to all who had made the calendar possible, Chairperson, Sam Milburn, also thanked the other Patrickswell businesses for their continued and generous financial support, and also paid tribute to past members who were instrumental in the formation of the group and its initial successes since 2020. Calendars at 10euro each are available at Centra, Gala and the Dark Horse Bar.

May we wish you all a very happy and prosperous 2023.

Sam Milburn. Chairperson.

## Dromiskin TidyTowns

Dromiskin Tidy Towns has had much to celebrate recently having been awarded its second Bronze Medal in the National SuperValu TidyTowns Competition and being one of only nineteen groups nationally to be awarded a Community Green Flag for its development and presentation of the Heritage Park.

Developed on a village centre site, owned by the Parish and licenced to the TidyTowns committee, the Park was designed by a local Tidy Towns volunteer who is a qualified Landscape Architect, with other members using their particular skills for other aspects including landscaping, historical research, completing successful funding applications, crafting sculptural pieces and implementing a herbicide free maintenance programme. A cocktail of funding was used to develop the varies stages of the park's development including Town & Village Renewal for the initial civil works, Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme for the pathways and edging and the Heritage Council and Corporate Sponsorship for many of the interpretations.

The Park, on its site of one third of an acre, may be a relatively small public space but it certainly packs a big punch with its permanent landscaping features, curving pathways and high quality interpretative panels highlighting the rich and varied heritage of the community.

The TidyTowns committee were delighted, when Councillor Kevin Meenan, Chairman of the Dundalk Municipal District, formally raised its second Green Flag and are not resting on their laurels as they are currently working on a number of projects that have been approved for LEADER funding.



It is hoped that completion of these projects will assist with the retention of the Green Flag as well as offering the potential for increased marks in the 2023 National SuperValu TidyTowns Competition.



## Re-Imagine – Hometown Architect

We are delighted to let you know that we have this week launched Hometown Architect, a Reimagine open call to support communities and architects with a vision to create vibrant town centres across Ireland. Since the launch of our Reimagine placemaking programme in 2019, the Irish Architecture Foundation has been connecting communities with architects



to co-design solutions for issues in the local built environment. Hometown Architect, with funding support from the Arts Council, Department of Rural and Community Development, and Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage continues this work in line with the goals set out in the Town Centre First policy. We are inviting joint applications from architects and community stakeholders with proposals to revitalise their local town centres.

Applications are now open and will be accepted until January 16th 2023. More details on the Hometown Architect project, as well as links to the full open call brief and application form can be found by visiting [www.reimagineplace.ie/open-call](http://www.reimagineplace.ie/open-call)

## Photography Competition

We are delighted to bring you our third photography competition. We were delighted with the response it received in recent years with hundreds of beautiful images submitted from all part of the country.

We are now calling on all our photography enthusiasts to get out there and capture your best images.

This year we will have a special category for our junior entrants up to 18 years of age; this category will attract a first prize of €150 gift card and a second prize of €100 gift card. The main competition will have a first Prize of €300, second prize of €200 and a third prize of €100. Total prize money of €850.



- Photographs should be emailed to [tidytowns@drccd.gov.ie](mailto:tidytowns@drccd.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 above.
- The TidyTowns Unit may use photographs submitted for social media or publications going forward.
- The closing date for entries was Friday November 25<sup>th</sup> but has been extended by another week up to December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023.

**CLOSING DATE EXTENDED**

## National Heritage Keepers programme open for applications

Burrenbeo Trust have put out a call for community groups, youth groups and primary schools to take part in the national Heritage Keepers programme. Have fun, learn something new, make a difference – become a Heritage Keeper!

Heritage Keepers is a free programme for community groups, youth groups and primary schools that will enable them to work together to explore the built, natural, and cultural heritage of their local place and then plan an action or actions to enhance their place. In-person, online and blended learning options are available. Last year 20 schools and communities took part in the programme, with most going on to complete a funded local project or actions. These funded actions included pond building, local heritage trails, signage for biodiversity, oral history projects and local heritage booklets. The expanded Heritage Keepers programme is now looking for 'Expressions of Interest' from those who wish to take part in the five 2-hour workshops in Spring 2023.

"Heritage Keepers aims to empower people to explore and discover their own local heritage" says Burrenbeo Trust Co-ordinator Áine Bird. "This helps foster a sense of pride, ownership and ultimately responsibility towards both their community and environment. This is more important than ever given the challenges the world currently faces".

For those interested in learning more, go to [Burrenbeo.com/hk](https://burrenbeo.com/hk) for more details or to fill out a short Expression of Interest form (the deadline for submissions is the 30th of November).



## Poets Corner

Our gathering today allows us to brag  
About achieving our second Green Flag  
An award achieved by our voluntary team  
In Ireland we're one of only nineteen

A third of an acre owned by the Parish  
Transformed to a space so tranquil and lavish  
To a professional design provided by Kevin  
We've created a little piece of heaven

With landscaping we were eager to please  
So in clusters of three we planted native trees  
Improved green infrastructure was part of our pledge  
So we also planted a hawthorn hedge

Highlighting heritage was part of the plan  
So the team got to work and research began  
On life in the Parish in earlier times  
All now recorded on interpretative signs

Maintenance continues day after day  
Attention to detail we always display  
Tidy Towns volunteers and the CE Scheme  
We all play a part on the maintenance team

Last year's judges gave a detailed report  
To implement recommendations, we needed support  
We wanted a bespoke seat - who could blame us?  
When we have a master craftsman like Seamus

A seat was provided and also a bin  
We hope visitors pop their litter in  
We've plenty of plans to further enchant  
Thanks to being awarded a LEADER grant

An Audio Unit to tell our Heritage Story  
Will help with further Green Flag Glory  
An Ogham Stone will be sure to please  
As will our book on butterflies, birds and bees

To present our village well we'll do our best  
We'll carry on with commitment and zest  
And we won't take our foot off the pedal  
In order to get another Tidy Towns medal

Thank you to Dromiskin Tidy Towns for this poem, composed for their Green Flag raising ceremony in their Heritage Park. Junior Tidy Towns member Deirbhile Morgan recited it. Congratulations to you all.



## KILMEEDY ON THE MAP

I bought a map of the UK  
And turned to Ireland straightaway  
Can you imagine my surprise  
But there it was before my eyes  
Kilmeedy's on the map.

At first I thought this can't be right  
But there it was in black and white  
It was very plain to see  
Still I doubted could this be  
Kilmeedy's on the map.

Forget about your Galway Bay  
And Tipperary far away  
They're not the only things to see  
So get on down to Kilmeedy  
They have got a feather in their cap.

Some come to kiss the Blarney Stone  
In Kilmeedy they say "How's the going"  
Others rave about Adare  
In Kilmeedy they just don't care  
Kilmeedy's on the map.

Just drive south through Ballingarry  
Soon you will be as happy as Larry  
For a wee bit further down  
Lies the jewel in the crown  
Kilmeedy's on the map.

One day I'm sure it will be  
Just as famous as Tralee  
They've got that song about the rose  
I'm sure you could write one of those  
It could be "The Kilmeedy Rap".

So if you are a Yank or Jap  
Don't fall into the tourist trap  
Trust me I'm an honest chap  
Kilmeedy's on the map.

Written by Esmond Hannon.

Thank you to Sheila Reidy from Kilmeedy Community Development Group in Limerick for sharing this poem with us, very well written indeed.

## A Remembrance of Yvonne Quill

On the last day of September  
The sad news of the death of Yvonne  
Quill filtered through.  
We all knew she was sick but it  
Still was hard to take in.

I had been friends with Yvonne  
For 25 years.  
She was a champion in Tidy Towns.  
Her dedication to the town of Killarney  
was just supreme.

The help she gave to all the town  
groups was just wonderful.  
Many the cup of tea we had in the  
Lovely Miss Courtney's tea rooms in  
Collage street.

To her family we offer our sympathy  
To all her great friends who will miss  
her so much, what a sad loss.

Rest in peace Yvonne, we will never  
forget you.

Thank you to Denis Heffernan from Emly TidyTowns for his poem in memory of his dear friend and indeed a loyal TidyTowns volunteer for many years in Killarney TidyTowns.



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



<https://twitter.com/TidyTownsIre>



<https://www.tidytowns.ie>



## Medal Holders

This year we changed our medal holder to a more sustainable version. We still have a small number of the original holders, if any of you had one of these that perhaps got damaged or broken and you would like a replacement, please let us know and we can send one on to you.





# Dublin Naturalists' Field Club Conservation Committee

## Old Walls Conservation

### Conserving The Natural Flora of

# Old Walls and Bridges

Dublin Naturalists' Field Club [www.dnfc.net](http://www.dnfc.net)



### Nationally rare Hawkweeds (*Hieracium*)

A number of rare Hawkweeds from rocky river valleys find their last sanctuary on old walls in upland areas. Here they are relatively safe from sheep grazing.

These Hawkweed species are also threatened by the growth of ivy and encroaching roadside vegetation.

More recently some colonies of these rare species have been destroyed by environmental projects.



### Natural colonisers, fragile survivors

Much of lowland Ireland is covered by deep soils. There is very little suitable habitat for indigenous plant species typical of rocky ground.

Old walls were usually fashioned from the locally-available outcropping bedrock.

Some species from these rock outcrops survive on old walls, long after the surrounding ground has lost its natural flora.



### Cleaning old walls erasing history

The clothing of historically significant vegetation which has survived for centuries on our old walls is now being erased. This removal of evidence has implications for cultural anthropologists and plant ecologists. Sometimes these works are necessary to stabilise stonework, but too often they are executed in the interests of neatness.



### Recent invaders

Many plants of garden origin have spread by seed onto old walls.

Larger species overwhelm and shade out more delicate native species. These, and other species, alter the microclimate of the wall.

The main culprit is Red Valerian, *Centranthus ruber* but many other species are now beginning to occupy these rare and significant refugia for our native species.

Once established it is very difficult to extirpate.



### What can be done?

Most towns have old walls, graveyards, castles, church ruins. People are proud of the historical and heritage significance of these structures.

Try to bring to the attention of colleagues and the local authorities, the importance of protecting the surviving natural flora and vegetation of these old walls.

Once certain significant species are eliminated from a district, there are by now very few seed sources from which the damaged areas can be naturally replenished. For further perspectives, please make contact with the Dublin Naturalists' Field Club.



### Old-established escapes

Fairy Foxglove, *Crinum alpinus*, has been occupying many of the warmest spots on old walls and is very persistent.

In Kildare, this species was first encountered, escaped, near Carton, Maynooth, where it was discovered in 1864, as part of the RHS British Botanical Collection project. It still occurs here and on other walls nearby.





## Rush TidyTowns – Summer Volunteer Barbecue

Minister Joe O'Brien presenting awards to volunteers of Rush TidyTowns. Here we see volunteer of the year award being presented to Ken Goslin. There was also a special volunteer award given to long serving committee member and daily litter picker Ger Redden.



## Entente Florale 2023

We are delighted to announce that Carlow Town will be representing Ireland in the 2023 Entente Florale competition in the Town category. We also welcome Ballinahown in Co. Westmeath who will represent the village category in the competition.

We wish both entrants every success in their preparations in indeed with the Jury visit in the summer of 2023.



## Communities in Bloom 2023

We would like to advise that Ennis in County Clare will represent Ireland in the Communities in Bloom 2023 competition. We wish them the very best of luck as they prepare in the coming months for their participation and for the Jury visit in summer 2023.



## Ireland's Best Kept Towns 2023

We are currently reviewing our entrants to the 2022 SuperValu TidyTowns competition and from these we will shortly select our eight nominations for the 2023 Ireland's Best Kept Towns competition. This is a North-South initiative and the results will be announced in Dublin in June 2023. We will be in touch with the nominees before year-end.



## Communities in Bloom – Awards Ceremony 2022



This year Glaslough in County Monaghan represented Ireland in the International Communities in Bloom competition. Earlier in the year, a team of judges visited Glaslough, during their visit they were treated to all the village had in store for them.

The results of the 2022 competition were announced in Canada on October 22<sup>nd</sup>, and a group of volunteers from Glaslough Tidy Towns were joined by officials from Monaghan Local Authority to travel to the ceremony.



The group did exceptionally well and received an overall rating of five Silver Blooms a special mention for Heritage Conservation. They were also awarded the overall winners award for the International Challenge in their category. So well done and huge congratulation to all in Glaslough on your most recent award to add to the list, County, Regional, National, European and now International.

The Jury that visited Glaslough were very impressed, the following is an extract from their report;

*The tour we were provided was thorough, interesting, and often compelling, particularly the visit to St. Mary's School where the students stationed around the yard demonstrated keen awareness and an understanding of environmental issues, as well as the need to keep Glaslough green. They represent great hope for the future, and their rendition of the Glaslough anthem was awesome! Thank you all!*

*Glaslough International CiB Committee and all of its supporters have done an excellent job of demonstrating all of the efforts that have been made in each of the judging criteria, and we commend and congratulate you all.*

*The warm hospitality with which we were treated from a stroll around the palace, to a traditional pub night, and a gala musical performance, meant that we arrived as strangers, but left as friends, and for that we sincerely thank you!*

**Congratulations to you all**

## Keep in Touch

Well as they say in show business, that's a wrap. Thank you as always for taking the time to read the newsletter and as always we would ask that you share it out in your community to your volunteers and to others who might be interested. It is your newsletter after all.

Thank you to all the groups and individuals who have sent in their photos, stories and poems, we love to hear what is happening in your group and wider community.

Watch out in the December issue when we will announce some more recipients of the SuperValu Gift Cards kindly sponsored by SuperValu who have been sponsoring the competition for over 30 years. It has recently been decided that they will continue to be the main sponsor of the competition out to 2027. We sincerely thank them and all their nationwide retailers for their ongoing support and very much look forward to working with them in the years ahead.

In December, we will also announce the winners of the 2022 SuperValu TidyTown's Photography competition, there is still time to enter so if you have not done so already, please feel free to send those images in.

If you have any questions, please drop us an email or give us a call, we are here to help in any way we can.

Anne, Helen & John

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Ár dTodhchaí  
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Our Rural  
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