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SuperValu Tidy Towns Newsletter Issue 2022-9

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Hi everyone,

Welcome to our October issue of the SuperValu Tidy Towns Newsletter. We are just days away from announcing the results of the 2022 SuperValu Tidy Towns competition. Further details on the event and how you can join in, are contained later on in the newsletter.

We want to once again say a sincere thank you to all our 882 groups that entered the competition this year and to the thousands and thousands of volunteers behind each of those entries, the work you do in making your towns and villages what they are today is priceless, you should all be so proud of your efforts.

We must also remember the volunteers that over the years made such a contribution but who sadly are no longer with us. Many of you have shared stories with us of volunteers and committee members who have sadly passed

away in the last year or two, we together with all of the Tidy Towns family extend our sympathy to all of you and we pray that those who have passed will now enjoy eternal rest and reward for their hard work.

We also remember all our Tidy Towns members in Donegal and in particular the village of Creeslough who were part of the competition in previous years. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all and we hope you will draw comfort from them in the weeks and months ahead. It is at times like this when we really see what community is about and how we can all support each other, May those who died on October 7th rest in peace.

We wish all of you well in the months ahead and hope you all have a chance to take a rest before we start all over again in the New Year. We wish you all the best of luck for the results, which will be, announced on Friday October 28th, please visit the Tidy Towns website on www.tidytowns.ie for more details and updates in the coming days.

Emly TidyTowns – Heritage Week

Emly TidyTowns unveiled a sculpture of a Blacksmith on Saturday 20th August to mark Heritage week. The Cathaoirleach of Tipperary County Council, Cllr Rodger Kennedy and the Heritage Officer Roisin O'Grady attended this event.

The sculpture was erected in the same place where a blacksmith used to be up until the late 1970's Paddy Hogan was his name. They was also a horse shod in the church carpark and many old games took place.

There was a heritage quiz on the Friday night; heritage walks on the Saturday and Sunday with traditional music in the local bars each night.

The local GAA also unveiled a wall with names on it that was created to pay for an astro turf field.

It was a wonderful community weekend in Emly and great fun was had by all. Well done to all involved here a wonderful heritage event.



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 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 is Friday November 25th.
- Results will be announced on Social Media and in the December Newsletter.
- Prizes will issue as soon as possible but it may be in January 2023.

Kilsheelan TidyTowns does Botanical Art

In early Summer, an ecologist, Mieke Brosnan, who had previously done assessments of our Biodiversity habitats reached out to engage our group and other interested parties in doing a “Creative Ireland” & Tipperary County Council funded Botanical Art study of the flora of the River Suir in Kilsheelan

Tutored by Mary Dillon a Kilkenny based Botanical Artist, Mieke set out to capture the common and unique plants residing along our section of the River Suir, which is a protected SAC. Particular attention was paid to the micro detail of a flower, which is often hidden on first inspection



We believe this is a first for any TidyTowns group. This Creative Ireland Botanical Art project involved 5 workshops of studying plants on the River and having drawing workshops afterwards



It will eventually lead to Kilsheelan TidyTowns installing a permanent Lectern display of the drawings and descriptions of this flora, personalised by the drawings of Mieke.

Highlights were engaging our members but also interested people from other groups, one of the days was listed as a Heritage Week walk on official calendar in August and a rare plant *Butomus umbellatus* was identified which is now recorded to National Biodiversity Data Centre in Waterford. Two Alien species were identified, one of which was new to us

This project engages, educates and raises community awareness of the Biodiversity in our environment.

The images above show attendees studying Plants along River Suir Blueway – and also drawing Plants in Kilsheelan Community Hall. The group feel that this project was a first of its kind for a TidyTowns group and it was a big success for their group and new people attracted to the study and art workshops.

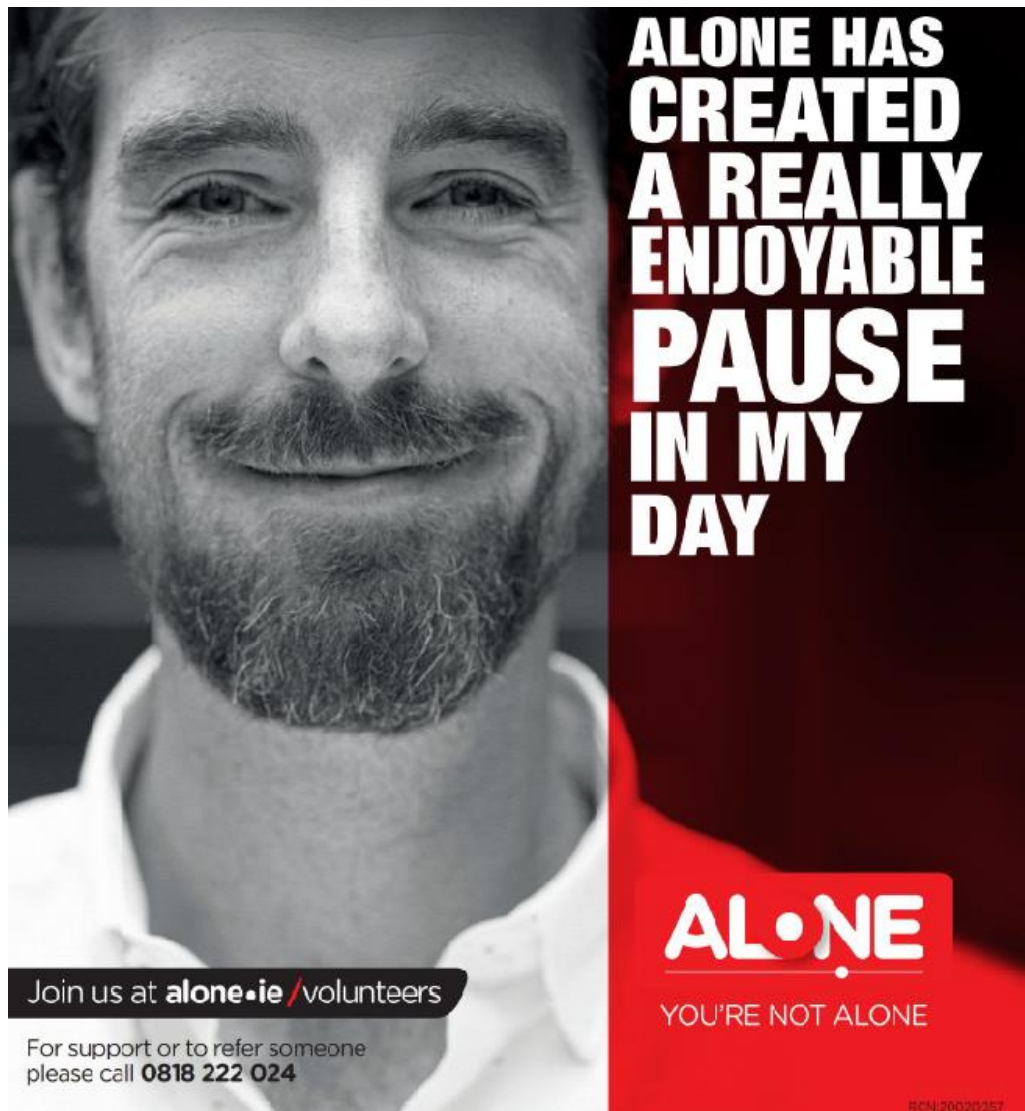
Well done to Kilsheelan TidyTowns for your efforts in organising this event.

ALONE – Call for Volunteers

ALONE, many of you know are a charity work with all older people, including those who are lonely, isolated, frail or ill, homeless, living in poverty, or are facing other difficulties.

They provide an integrated system of Support Coordination, Practical Supports, Befriending, a variety of Phone Services, Social Prescribing, Housing with Support, and assistive technology.

They also use support plans, provide a point of contact for access to health, social care, housing, transport and other arising needs using technology and other services and activities to improve physical, emotional and mental wellbeing.



**ALONE HAS
CREATED
A REALLY
ENJOYABLE
PAUSE
IN MY
DAY**

Join us at **alone.ie** /volunteers

For support or to refer someone
please call **0818 222 024**

ALONE
YOU'RE NOT ALONE

RCN:20020357

Alone have nearly 3000 volunteers throughout the Country who conduct and provide practical supports to older people, visits and phone calls, linking older people into social activity and being a companion.

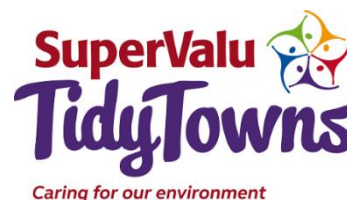
ALONE is looking for Volunteers to help with their Support and Befriending older people across the country. This can be done in person or with our Support & Befriending phone service.

If you think this is something you would like to do and are interested in finding out more information, please call ALONE on 0818 222 024 or see <https://alone.ie/volunteer/volunteers/>



SuperValu TidyTowns Awards 2022

We are only days away from the announcement of the results of the 2022 SuperValu TidyTowns competition. Excitement is building as each day passes. Invitations have issued, the five perpetual trophies have been engraved with our 2022 winners and preparations are nicely taking shape.



This year the awards ceremony will be held in the RDS on Friday October 28th, we are delighted to have RTE Nationwide back with us and they will be airing a special programme with exclusive video footage of our finalists on Friday October 28th, the evening of the ceremony, this programme will be aired at 7pm on RTEONE.

We will also be live streaming the event as it happens, we would encourage all of you tune in and watch to see how everyone has done. A small number of awards will be presented on stage on the day but all awards will be presented to groups later in the year or early in the New Year at a series of regional awards ceremonies. We will do our best to get some of these organised before Christmas but as the days shorten and weather becomes more wintry, we are conscious of bringing many of you on long journeys on dark nights.

Any cash prizes arising from awards will be paid directly to your group's bank account; we would remind any of you who may have recently changed banks to be sure to let us know. As previously advised, there are new regulations in relation to making a payment to voluntary groups, you will need to have a tax registration number, while this is an additional piece of work, it is minor and many of you have completed this process without any issue. If we do not have bank details on file for you, or perhaps this is your first award, we will be in touch very early in November to ask you to complete some paperwork in order for us to process your award payment.

We would like to wish you all the very best of luck for the 28th, not everyone wins something but your communities and the country win as a result of the ongoing work, you as TidyTowns volunteers do to make our towns and villages the clean, inviting, colourful and welcoming places they are. So Congratulations to you all.

Please visit the TidyTowns website in the coming days where you will find the link to tune in to the awards ceremony on Friday October 28th. The event will commence at 12:45, once you join using the link, just wait a few moments and you will be connected, we hope you all enjoy the event whether you are there in person or via the link.

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.



On Yer Bike!!! Carrick on Shannon TidyTowns Style

Norma from Carrick on Shannon TidyTowns in Lovely Leitrim got in touch to share with us some images of a mix of modern and vintage bicycles, painted and planted up with mostly pollinator friendly plants and ivy, adding colour and selfie opportunities to a green area along the River Shannon.



This is upcycling; pardon the pun, at its finest. Well done to all involved, no doubt these have made into many staycation photos and indeed vacation photos from our further afield visitors. Nice to see the pollinator planting too.



What a fantastic spread of colour here, something to appeal to all locals and visitors to the area. Really well done here everyone involved, this is one for your sustainability category next year.



Jonnie & Bridie On Holiday

Jonnie and Bridie went on vacation a couple of times a year, mind you during Covid they hardly got out of bed they were so afraid. Most of the time they went to same town and same hotel. My friend that told me this story and he would have known them well. Anyway they were in a different hotel this time.

So their routine was breakfast and then to mass, take a walk around the town and back to the hotel. Jonnie would have ideas about himself he was like a pull through for a rifle, Bridie was a little bit on the shall we say big side. I would say they both liked their afternoon siesta.

Anyway the story goes that Bridie decided to take a bath I am told by my friend that the bath was able to flow water from the sides so it seems it wasn't long before Bridie was covered in suds and bubbles. Well all was great until she went to get out and then the fun started. Jonnie was stretched on the bed watching the news, and his mouth watering for porter. "Jonnie I'm stuck in the bath" shouts Bridie, "Well you will be left there if you don't hurry up my lips are parched with the thirst" Jonnie replies. "I can't get out" says Bridie and Jonnie replies "didn't you get in, or are you after growing" "It isn't funny Jonnie" says Bridie "its far from funny for me Bridie do you want me to get the air core to lift you out, get out quick or I will cool you off with a fine pan of cold water".

Jonnie went in and there she was like the sleeping beauty. "By Jesus if you don't get out you can sleep there for the night". "Help me Jonnie" she said and poor Jonnie only the size of a big walking stick. Well he stared to tackle her but he might as well be trying to move the Galtee mountain. He got the ironing board and put it behind her and tried to get her to sit back on it but not a move out of Bridie. "Take away that thing I suppose you don't even know what it is for. Why didn't I marry a strong man Bridie shouted?" "Why did I marry someone that's too lazy to get out of the bath?"

Jonnie thought of a plan he took off his belt of his trousers and put it around Bridie and tried to get it on to the taps but it was a couple of inches short poor Jonnie was fit to get a heart attack. Jonnie said Bridie will I rub shampoo on your sides well if you don't shut your mouth Bridie said "I will have you committed to a mental hospital for the rest of your life and said

she its all your fault". Jonnie said he would give her a cup of tea incase she would get weak with the hunger "give me my jewellery and I will put it on" not but she was heavy enough Jonnie said he would have to go down to reception how was he going to face down, anyway down he went and stuttering and stammering to the girl at the desk.

My wife is stuck in the bath stuck in the bath she said no says he she is not stuck she just can't get out and with all the stuttering he did didn't his false teeth fall out on the ground. Well he snapped them up and stuck them back in his gob the biggest part of him. Well up the poor girl on reception came and went up to the room and Jonnie behind her like a sheepdog Faith hadn't Bridie the important parts covered up with suds well the girl got behind Bridie and with one heave had her standing like a statue.

Well poor Jonnie went down for breakfast the following morning with his head bowed down there was no mass only straight to the train no word out of Bridie only a fine picture she kept blaming Jonnie for what happened all the way home and how he embarrassed her she said never again would she show her face in the hotel in that town I don't think poor Jonnie will be rushing back in a hurry anyway

Denis Heffernan July 2022



Delighted again this month to hear from Denis in Emly, what a wonderful story, thank you as always Denis for sharing with us. Keep them coming.



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



<https://twitter.com/TidyTownsIre>



<https://www.tidytowns.ie>



Entente Florale 2022

Last Month TidyTowns groups from Keadue in Roscommon and Dalkey in Dublin made their way to Balatonfüred in Hungary for the 2022 Entente Florale prize giving ceremony. Each year we nominate a village and a town entrant to represent Ireland on the European stage.



Our entrants perform exceptionally well in this competition each year and this year was no different. Keadue were awarded a Gold medal and Dalkey were awarded a Silver medal.



Both entrants were also recipients of a Special Characteristic Prize, Dalkey were commended for the conservation strategy for Dalkey Island. The Jury were impressed with the outstanding conservation work on Dalkey Island and the work of Dalkey TidyTowns Committee on their unique Energy Plan.

Keadue were applauded for the maintenance of their Heritage Park. The special approach of the Heritage Park maintenance, including the integration of wildlife meadows pleased the judges especially the presence of wild orchids in the park on the day the jury visited the village.

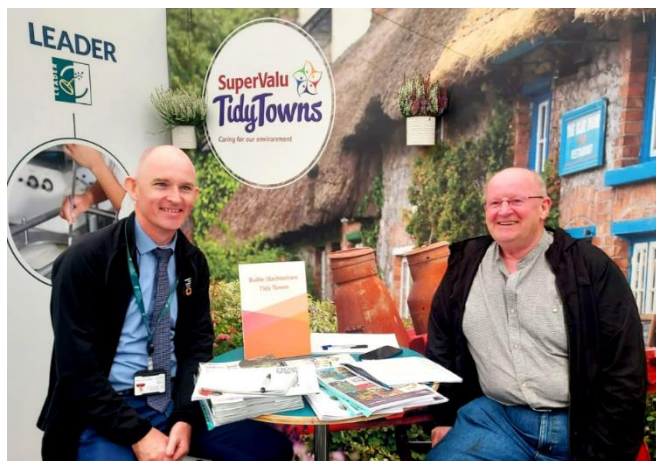


Congratulations to both Dalkey and Keadue on your wonderful results and thank you for accepting the nominations to represent your towns and villages, your county and indeed the county in this prestigious competition.

Thank you also to the Local Authority officials in Roscommon and Dun Laoghaire Rathdown for their tremendous support and to the local businesses, community groups, residents, schools and all who supported you in the competition and to the TidyTowns mentors who helped you along the way. Well done to all involved.

National Ploughing Championships 2022

Last month we saw the return of the National Ploughing Championships after a two-year absence. It was great to back to meet with so many volunteers from groups across the country. This year the TidyTowns unit of the Department of Rural and Community Development had a dedicated section within the Government of Ireland village at the championships, which returned to Ratheniska in Co. Laois.



We were delighted to welcome three separate TidyTowns groups over the three-day event to assist us and to share their experiences with the many visitors we had. Thank you so much to the volunteers from Abbeylax TidyTowns, Geashill TidyTowns and Tullamore TidyTowns who were so generous with their time and their knowledge. Thank you also to the members from the national adjudication panel who attended also to give advice from the Adjudicators perspective.

Thank you to all who attended the stand over the three days, it was a very enjoyable and indeed informative event, it was wonderful to heard first hand from you the volunteers on the many positives and indeed challenges that are being encountered by TidyTowns groups around the country.

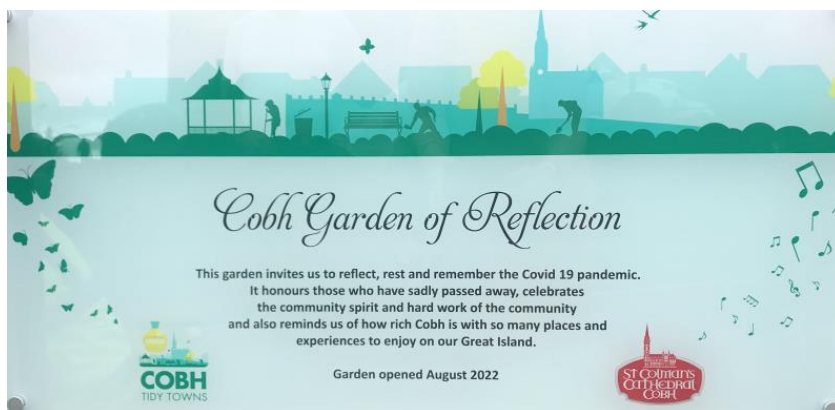


Cobh TidyTowns - Garden of Reflection

Ruth from Cobh TidyTowns got in touch with us. Having won the 2021 TidyTowns Covid Community Spirit Award acknowledging the breadth of work done by community groups, individuals and businesses in Cobh inspired the group to start planning a project to remember all the positivity in the town during this time and reflect on those who are no longer with us. The Cobh Garden of Reflection is a Cobh TidyTowns initiative in association with Cobh Parish. The enhancements to the area invite us to reflect, rest and remember the Covid 19 pandemic.

The garden honours those who have sadly passed away, celebrates the community spirit and hard work of the community and reminds us of how rich Cobh is with so many places and experiences to enjoy on our Great Island.

Once Bishop Crean and the Parish Pastoral Council gave their blessing, the planning for the Cobh Covid Garden of Reflection began in earnest. An area that previously was just grass was enhanced with wheelchair accessible paving, pollinator planted flowerbed with some interesting engraved stone as well as seats to take in the harbour and listen to the Cathedral Carrillon recitals.



When you visit the garden you will see many inspirational quotes set amongst the beautiful flowers – you'll see one from the Bible but you'll see others from Kurt Cobain, Martin Luther King Jr., Charlie Mackesy, Helen Keller, Robin Williams, Emma Donoghue and many more.

The one with particular relevance to this project is one from Fred Rogers: 'Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping' – and there were quite a few helpers.

Bishop Crean saw how this underutilised green area will make Cobh an even better place to live in, work in and to visit and enhance the lives of people living here. In his own words it was a "no brainer" to do something with the space.



The people of Cobh have supported Cobh TidyTowns for over 40 years but over the past 13 years the town has been transformed by a community wide effort to make Cobh a place that we are all proud to call home. By scooping so many awards with prize money in 2021, along with community support by buying our fundraising calendar, the support of our sponsors, those who have fundraised for us and a contribution from the Cobh Chronicle we were able to fund this project fully and give back with added value to the people of Cobh. Thanks are also extended to Pobal for their support with the initiative

The Cobh Community now has a wonderful space in which to enjoy views, to observe nature in our pollinator friendly planting and all that it provides, to take time out, to reflect on life and its ups and downs and to be comforted, inspired or provoked by our carefully chosen inspirational quotes.

Rush TidyTowns – Summer Volunteer Barbecue

Brendan O Reilly, Chairperson Rush Tidy Towns tells us about their summer volunteer barbecue and volunteer of the year awards. This occurred last month in the picturesque surroundings of Rush Sailing Club. Over 80 volunteers and committee members attended the event with many local businesses including SuperValu Rush and North Dublin Catering donating food or prizes for the day.

Minister Joe O'Brien, along with Councillors Brian Dennehy and Rob O'Donahue along with Brendan himself, presented the awards. There is a list of all the winners in one of the photos. I also have more photos if required.

There were several awards handed out but most notably the volunteer of the year award went to Ken Goslin. There was also a special volunteer award given to long serving committee member and daily litter picker Ger Redden. This was a very emotional part of the day with a huge round of applause and standing ovation for Ger.



Communities in Bloom – Awards Ceremony

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 will be announced in Canada this Saturday October 22nd, and we wish the group travelling from Glaslough and Monaghan Local Authority every success and a safe and enjoyable trip.

We will bring you an update next month on how they do.

Keep in Touch

Thank you as always for taking the time to read the newsletter and for sharing it with your community. Thank you also to those who have sent in their photos, stories and poems or stories, we love to hear what is happening in your group and wider community, remember, this is your newsletter.

Results booklets and adjudication reports will be available on our website and will be posted out to each entrant to arrive on November 1st. We hope you find the information contained in the report of use to you in planning for next year's competition. You will note the results booklet is smaller this year; we have condensed the information to make it more sustainable.

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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