

# SuperValu TidyTownns Newsletter

## Issue 3-2024

The SuperValu TidyTownns Competition, administered by the Department of Rural and Community Development and sponsored by SuperValu, supports the Sustainable Development Goals.

Welcome:

A Chairde,

Welcome to a bumper third issue of the SuperValu TidyTownns newsletter of 2024.

In this issue, we bring you a recap of various projects undertaken by TidyTownns groups nationwide. We introduce our SDG Champions for 2024-2025, highlight our advice corner, provide information on Dark Skies as well as highlight two Regional Award ceremonies held this year.

We congratulate Carlow and Ballinahown for their tremendous performance in Entente Florale Europe both receiving Gold Awards as well as special awards. Trim, also deserve congratulations for their performance in Communities in Bloom. Both jury visits were held in July this year.

We wish to thank all the TidyTownns groups who completed our survey in August. 5 groups received their €100 SuperValu Vouchers –

- Crumlin Community Clean Up
- Emo TidyTownns
- Knocknagree Fairfield TidyTownns
- Ballinabranna, Milford & Raheendoran Dev Group
- Ballyhaunis TidyTownns

Please continue to send us in articles and news pieces for our newsletter in 2025 we love seeing and sharing the results of all your fantastic work!

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## Ballycumber TidyTowns Flora & Fauna Signs

### Nature in Ballycumber Flora and fauna in the village



**Pygmy Shrew - Dúilleag Phionn**  
This tiny mammal is one of the smallest in Ireland. It is found in wet, boggy areas and is known for its unique call.



**Robin - Spíodóg**  
The robin is a common bird in Ireland, known for its distinctive red breast and melodious song.



**Bird's-foot Trefoil - Croibín**  
This small plant is a common sight in wet, boggy areas and is known for its unique shape.



### Nature in Ballycumber Flora and fauna in the village



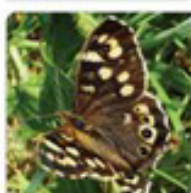
**Hazel - Coill**  
The hazel is a common tree in Ireland, known for its distinctive catkins and sweet, edible nuts.



**Rook - Rúcach**  
The rook is a large, black bird known for its intelligence and social behavior.



**Hawthorn - Sceach gheal**  
The hawthorn is a common shrub in Ireland, known for its white flowers and red berries.



Ballycumber Tidy Towns printed flora and fauna signs that were erected throughout key areas in the village to foster awareness, education, and encourage sustainable practices. These posters were designed to make our community and visitors to our village aware of the plant and animal species in our locality and inform people about different species, ecosystems, and their interconnections, as well as raising awareness about the importance of preserving biodiversity.

## Dusk Chorus Walk

As part of National Biodiversity Week, a Dusk Chorus Walk was organised by Ballycumber Tidy Towns to build on environmental awareness in our locality. The Biodiversity Officer with Offaly County Council facilitated a walk around the village and surrounds to enjoy evening bird song.

During the walk, we identified the following birds: Wren, Blackbird, Robin, Thrush, Chaffinch, Rook, Blackcap, Greenfinch, Jackdaw, Willow Warbler, Collared-Dove, Wood-Pigeon, Tit, Black-headed Gull, and Sparrow.





## Carrig-on-Bannow TidyTowns Sustainable Halloween

What a fun and imaginative use of materials!!



## Carrigallen TidyTowns New Little Library

Feeling grateful and delighted for our new “Little Library” “which is beside our Bus Shelter, The Cornmill Wheel and award winning Cornmill Theatre in Drama over the years. Our group is so impressed with “The Aughavas Men Shed” who kindly crafted this project with attention to detail and came ready only to fill it with books for all ages. What a treat to all readers where they can leave or take a book. It ideally situated and blends in so well beside our unique Bus Shelter where you can sit and read in all kinds of weather. We are always striving to come up with new projects that will benefit the whole community.



## Cavan TidyTowns

A very successful Cavan TidyTowns Family and Community day was held on Saturday at 11am in the Green Lough Eco Park – even the weather co-operated!





## Kilmeedy Vintage Rally

The location could not be better, the scenery a sight to behold,

With Kilmeedy Hill in the background and the valley stretching out below.

It was a first for Kilmeedy and hopefully not the last,

The family day and vintage gave us all a glimpse of the past.

A road race started proceedings and at noon they were on their way,

The rain was lashing down but it didn't hamper their day.

Lorries, cars and tractors and engines of every make,

A lady mingled with the crowd saying, "Guess the weight of the cake".

There were three lovely lasses serving the tea and two more in the bric-a-brac section,

There was something there for everyone when you looked in any direction.

The mini zoo and the merry-go-round was a popular hit with the kids,

Then the MC mounted the stage to sell the cakes by bid.

The music coming from the group was to everyone's delight,

We also met a young neighbour riding his vintage bike.

Household gadgets and washing machines that were used in the days of yore,

Lawnmowers, crosscuts and spanners that are in use no more.

Then there were sumo wrestlers, half-nelsons, the lot,

No quarter was asked or given, they gave as good as they got.

The marshals and stewards did a wonderful job and deserve a pat on the back,

As well as helpers and organisers who kept it all on track.

The festivities ended with a dance in a marquee in the grounds of the Glen,

And the man who cooked the burgers made sure no one got thin.

There was speculation about the band, some said it must be Girls Aloud,

But that was only a rumour, it was Hanora and Sean O'Dowd.

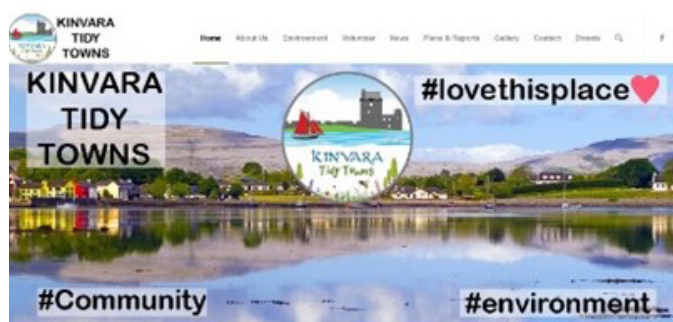
The band played long into the night and music filled the air,

It brought back pleasant memories of when the Glenside Ballroom was there.

*Written by Jim Moloney, Ballinruane, Kilmeedy (August 2009)*

## Kinvara TidyTowns

The Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications, Eamon Ryan, appointed 20 new organisations from across Irish society to become Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Champions on June 26th. Kinvara Tidy Towns were delighted to be selected as SDG Champions 2024-2025 and on behalf of Kinvara Tidy Towns group, Maria Hannigan accepted our certificate for this award from the Minister for the Environment. We shall be launching our Biodiversity and Climate plan for 2024-2026 during SDG Week September 20th - 29th. We also ran SDG awareness and action workshops with three sustainability TY classes. Our earthkeeper group ran a big beach clean on the 22nd of September. Our goal is to focus on SDG awareness and identifying clear SDG goals for our community, youth and sports groups in our three year Tidy towns plan 2024 - 2027.



Welcome to Kinvara Tidy Towns "Love this Place"

Kinvara Tidy Towns have expanded our Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/Kinvara.ie> and Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/kinvaratidytowns> pages and on April 23rd launched our own website [www.kinvaratidytowns.ie](http://www.kinvaratidytowns.ie) – all designed and run in-house. You can find information about Kinvara Tidy Towns but also many of the groups we are associated with in the Area. There are sections on the Environment, Biodiversity, Litter Picking, Sustainable Development Goals, Youth, Community and Volunteering. You can also download our plans for the future, sections on Recycle and Repair, Pollinator and Tree Planting and “Leave no Trace”. There is also a large gallery of images of all the things we have already achieved in the Area and we are excited about adding many more in the future.

To be successful in our goals this year, it was very important to collaborate with as many different groups throughout the village. We connect with multi stakeholders, ranging from three National and Secondary Schools, Sports groups, Foroige, Scouts, Beavers and Cubs groups, ten different local environmental groups, the Dolmen Centre and many of our over 80 Community based groups on a regular basis. We also partner with the following teams within Galway County Council, Gort Area Council Office, the Environmental Council team, Biodiversity Council team, Climate Change Council team, and Heritage team.



## Moyglass TidyTowns

The last year has seen a lot of activity and progress made by Moyglass Tidy Towns group. While still a relatively small group, we have progressed several different projects within the village and laid the groundwork for some long-term developments.

This year we again focussed on two main areas –ensuring the main village area is kept tidy, cared for and attractive, and the development of the community field as a recreational, educational and bio-diverse area that all can utilise.

We have organised and run a number of litter picks and encouraged the community to look after litter and rubbish in their own areas. Each road from the village is regularly walked and cleared by local teams and this is something that we continue to encourage. We hope that eventually this can happen on a more informal basis as people get into the habit of collecting rubbish in their own local areas.

We have continued to plant and maintain flowerbeds, pots and containers throughout the village. We have also weeded, cleaned and cleared most of the visible areas in the village that have become neglected over the years. We have washed and repainted walls, cleared pathways and tidied grass verges.

The primary focus of our efforts this year, however, has been the development of the community field, in association with the Moyglass Hall Committee. The Hall Committee recently purchased the field, adjacent to the community hall and in the centre of the village for the community. Moyglass Tidy Towns have worked with the committee to develop the field as a community resource.





We are very lucky that local landscaper and horticulturist Michael Murphy is a committed member of our group, and he has driven the development of the field with his vision, ideas and very practical, hands-on know-how. The field is being developed as a long-term project and is now known as The Moyglass Meadow. We aim to develop and protect this old Irish meadow, rich in biodiversity, in the heart of our village, as a park for multiple uses including recreation, education and conservation. We have initially planted a number of native trees throughout the field. The plan is to plant several more trees each year for the next 5-10 years. In addition, we have let the native grasses grow throughout the field and have mowed pathways throughout to allow for exploration and play among the various areas of the field, including the existing wetlands area.



Michael has also led the development of the wildflower margin around the perimeter of the walkway which was such a beautiful addition last year. This has been replanted for this year and we hope for an equally impressive display as the summer progresses.

The abandoned shed at the end of the walkway has been an eyesore for a long time. This summer, we refurbished the shed with paint and murals to add some colour and interest at the end of the walkway.



A very attractive addition to the walkway is the living willow hedge and bench designed by Michael. An excellent example of using natural local materials to create a beautiful, living space that can be used by all and can also provide a great educational experience.

We have recently seen the council complete work on new footpaths in the village. This is something that we have campaigned for some time. The previous footpath was broken and intermittent making it both unsightly and dangerous.

Moyglass Tidy Towns is very grateful to everybody who has helped and assisted in any way over the past year. We are always looking for new members to join the group and we continue to welcome all help and assistance that anyone can give going forward.

## Roscommon TidyTowns

Here are some highlights of the year for Roscommon Tidy Towns. Over the Summer months our volunteers were very busy and working hard in preparing the town for the Tidy Town's National and Ireland's Best Kept Town competitions and now as the Autumn has arrived we are looking forward to a well-earned break. The meadow in our biodiversity site at Cruby Hill was cut in the hay making season, so with the talents of our friend Joe Cribben, it gave everyone a cheery smile when he saved the grass cuttings and made a cock of hay. He anchored it down with a traditional hay-rope or in the Irish word a Sugan. On the 18th of June we received the fantastic news that we won Ireland's Best Kept Town competition in which we were delighted with the results.

September has arrived with changing skies, the Autumn leaves falling and the wild flower seed heads filling out. It's a good time to take stock of what local wildflower seeds are available in the local meadows, hedgerows, roadside verges, woods and wasteland which can be harvested to diversify our future seed sowings. Wild strawberries still appear to delight us in our Community Garden. The garden has become a habitat for various wildlife taking up residence in bird boxes, insect hotels and a solar powered pond too.

Tidy Towns member Christina Walker & John Larkin sharing seeds which she collected.



## SDG Champions Programme 2024 – 2025



Minister Ryan has appointed 20 new organisations from across Irish society to become Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Champions to drive forward Ireland's progress towards the SDGs.

The organisations have been selected from across the public, private, community, voluntary, youth and NGO sectors, ranging from Kinvara Tidy Towns, to Sligo Rovers, ALDI to Mayo County Council, Junk Kouture to UCD. Already, 34 organisations and groups – large and small – have become SDG Champions across the 2019-2020 and 2023-2024 programmes.

Over 90 Organisations applied to take part in the programme this year, demonstrating the growing commitment of Irish society to live up to and promote the goals which have at their heart equality, access to basic rights like clean water, clean energy, food and shelter for all, and climate justice.

In addition, this year former Champion organisations will also have the opportunity to continue promoting and progressing the SDGs as SDG Ambassadors. Developed as a complement to the SDG Champions Programme, this role will enable former Champions to continue their valuable work, contributing to the promotion, awareness-raising, and implementation of the SDGs, on local, regional and national levels.

In addition, former SDG champions have chosen to take up the role of SDG Ambassadors, continuing to raise awareness of the SDGs. Also this year, as part of a pilot project, the champions will be joined by a departmental partner, The Construction Procurement Policy Unit (CPPU) at the Office of Government Procurement (OGP) will work alongside the new champions, building partnerships and enhancing stakeholder engagement.



Find out more about the 2024-2025 SDG Champions Programme on the **Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications website**.

You can find out more about the 2024-2025 SDG Champions on the **Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications website**.

## Regional Award Ceremonies

The Department was delighted to hold two of the SuperValu TidyTowns 2023 Regional Award ceremonies in September. We are in the process of organising the TidyTowns schedule for 2025 and will be in touch as soon as possible. We hope to hold the remaining 2023 Regional Awards and 2024 Regional Awards ceremonies in Q1 next year.

Please get in touch if you wish to request any photos from the ceremonies.

### 2023 North West and West Regional Award Ceremony Tuesday 10th September 2024

Minister Alan Dillon and Richard Lennon, SuperValu presented prizes to winners from the North West and West region in Knockranny House Hotel Westport on Tuesday 10th September. MC for the night was local man Dermott Langan who rose to the occasion.



### 2023 Midlands and East Regional Awards Ceremony Friday 13th September 2024

Minister Seán Fleming and John Kelly, SuperValu presented prizes to winners from the Midlands and East Region on Friday 13th September in Abbeylax Manor Hotel Abbeylax. An unlucky date for some but not for those who attended on the night! MC for the evening was Chairman of Abbeylax TidyTowns Robbie Quinn, who did a fantastic job! Well done and congratulations to all the prize winners.



## SuperValu Survey Results

In 2023, TidyTowns volunteers completed 1,066,242 hours of work.

There are over 29,000 volunteers and currently 904 active committees, with more people continuing to get involved.

15% of volunteers now come from other countries – showcasing the SuperValu TidyTowns initiative as a positive example of inclusivity and diversity.

TidyTowns committees continue to support sustainability – planting 182,000 trees, 40,000 flowerpots, 200,000 square metre of flower beds, maintaining 20,000 acres of low-mow grass and over 500 acres of meadows

Huge thanks to all our volunteers for completing the survey and for your dedication and commitment to your communities.

Keep up the great work!!

### Congratulations to the winners of the €100 SuperValu gift cards:

- Ballyhaunis TidyTowns
- Crumlin Community Cleanup
- Emo TidyTowns
- Knocknagree/Fairfield TidyTowns
- Ballinabranna, Milford & Rahendoran TidyTowns



## Poetry Corner Autumn

It didn't last too long  
Now the Summer's almost gone  
The days are getting shorter one by one  
We'll soon be losing leaves  
To the gusty Autumn breeze  
It's time to say goodbye to Summer sun.

But we should not be sad  
No! We should all feel glad  
Soon all the leaves turn gold and brown and red  
Stroll in woods and glimpse  
Those lovely Autumn tints  
Summer's gone, put Autumn in your head.

My Father used to call the Autumn time the Fall  
A time when all the leaves are on the floor  
The seasons come and go  
From Summer sun to snow  
And so now it's Autumn's turn once more.

*Sent in by Kilmeedy TidyTowns*

## Advice Section: Planting

The below article was sent in to us by the Dublin Naturalists Field Club. It is a useful resource for Tidy Towns Committees when organising plantings in their areas. <https://dnfc.net/2024/02/07/protecting-the-threatened-flora-of-old-walls/>

## Keep in Touch

As always, please continue to send us in your photos, articles and updates for inclusion. Our final issue this year will cover the National Awards Ceremony held recently in Croke Park.

Niamh, Helen, Siobhán

Department of Rural and Community Development

Government Buildings, Ballina, Co. Mayo F26 E8N6

## Dark Sky Ireland

Please see below links to useful resources on Dark Sky Ireland, which was formed with the common goal to raise awareness of light pollution in Ireland. It also promotes the use of responsible lighting through education and the development of a national policy and strategy in the absence of legislation.

Dark Sky Ireland have kindly provided the below resources – more resources are also available on

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

Restoring Irish Nightscapes YouTube Channel

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vC6idt7MQmk>

DSI last newsletter

<https://mailchi.mp/f88c1224cb83/summer-2024-newsletter-and-subscription-link>

Lighting guidelines and toolkits


<https://www.darksky.ie/lighting-documents/#types-of-lighting>


Mayo Dark Skies – Newport Lighting Project

<https://youtu.be/3orLC5gUCRc?si=a5PouoQsbNO7Vsb1>

Infographic on lighting changes


<https://www.mayodarkskypark.ie/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/dark-sky-friendly-lighting-infographic1.pdf>

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