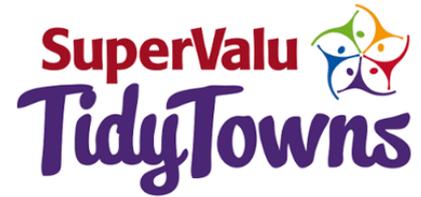




Rialtas
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Project Ireland
2040



Caring for our environment

Supporting the Sustainable Development Goals
Act Local – Think Global

**Administered by the Department
of Rural & Community Development**

SuperValu Tidy Towns Newsletter Issue 2022-7

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Hi everyone,

In the words of Ella Fitzgerald and Louis Armstrong in the famous song “Summertime and the livin’ is easy” well we know summertime is not an easy time for Tidy Towns volunteers, but we do hope you get to take a well-deserved break and enjoy the sun, when it shines.

We are now into the home stretch on the Adjudication journey, in some cases your Adjudicator has been and gone and in others, might well be coming down the road as we speak.

The European and International Judges have been and gone, so the towns and villages involved in those competitions can breathe that little bit easier. More information

on the Communities in Bloom and Entente Florale assessment visits later on in this issue.

The competition results will be announced in October and shortly after that we will be commencing the distribution of well-earned prizes, most of which consist of a cash prize. Recent changes in Revenue guidelines require that all groups receiving funds need to provide a tax registration number. We appreciate this is an additional piece of work but one that is relatively easy to complete and once it’s done, it’s done. Could we ask you all to give some consideration to this as any grant schemes that your groups may apply for going forward will most likely be governed by the same requirements. Your local Revenue Office will be able to assist you further if you have any questions on how to go about obtaining a tax reference number if you are a voluntary group.

We wish those of you holidaying away a very pleasant and safe journey and to those holidaying at home, safe travelling and we hope you enjoy all the wonderful things our country, our culture and our people have to offer, it is very encouraging to see activity in our towns and villages but we still have to look out for each other and ourselves. Stay safe.

Oakland Art Group Glaslough

During a recent visit to Beautiful Glaslough, we were shown some fantastic art work completed by the locals who have been attending an art class.

Ann Mc Kenna a CE worker for Glaslough TidyTowns had just completed her Train the Trainer course and being a budding artist/crafter was approached by some members of the local TidyTowns committee and Glaslough Development to start art classes with them in our local Oakland community centre.

Covid as we all know had taken so much socialising away from everyone and especially our senior TidyTowns volunteers and it was now time to help them get back to some normality and build their confidence to get out and about again, so Ann and the group put their thinking caps on, and it was decided that they would start a six-week art class.

Monday the 2nd of May was the first class, there were 4 ladies and one of their grandchildren in attendance and they were all very nervous, with one telling Ann “I couldn’t draw a stick man” or “The only thing I paint are fences, walls and chairs”.

As no one had painted a picture before, the first class was to build their confidence, have fun and go home with a completed painting, and this was exactly what they did, every one of the ladies and Owen were amazed by what they had achieved.



Ann (Left) and her first art class with Pauline, Ann, Owen, Maeve and Bridie

The classes went from strength to strength each week and everyone gaining more confidence in themselves and having lots of fun on the way.



The only thing they didn't like about the classes was that it came to an end after six weeks, so it will be back by popular demand in the Autumn and who knows maybe we have the new Monet or Van Gogh in the making.



Well done to Ann and all involved in Glaslough for this wonderful initiative, which we have no doubt will continue to grow and flourish. Ann gave us this quote:

“Never stop learning because life never stops teaching”
(Unknown)



How true that is, keep those brushes going guys and keep us updated on your progress. From what we have seen so far, there is some wonderful talent there.

Plastic Free July

Reducing plastic in a way that works for your lifestyle. Even one change will collectively make a real difference. In Ireland we produce over 1 million tonnes of waste packaging a year, and the volume is increasing. The sheer amount of plastic we are producing feels overwhelming.

Much of the plastic we use every day is not necessary. Because we throw so much away, plastic pollution is a global environmental problem. With one change you will be part of the solution to plastic pollution: being part of Plastic Free July will help you to find alternatives that can become new habits forever.

Sometimes it is just about being organised. For me, this month I will use my Keep Cup in Coffee Angel when I visit on work mornings, no more disposable takeaway cups— there I have said it and now I have no choice but to commit! Attached are some more ideas on alternatives to plastics – I hope this inspires you to try something new.



Did you know? The Problem with Plastic?

- Plastics are generally derived from oil - a non-renewable resource.
- Plastic is very slow to decompose - from 20 to 500 years.
- Globally, 5 to 13 million tonnes of plastic waste ends up in the sea each year.
- The 10 most commonly found single-use plastic items = 70% of all EU marine litter.
- Plastic pollution poses severe risks to our ocean ecosystems and harms birds and sea life.
- Plastics break down into tiny particles and enter the food chain, potentially affecting human health.



We hope you feel motivated to try something new to be part of the solution to plastic pollution.

CONSCIOUS SHOPPING

Certain foods can have a lot of unnecessary packaging. During plastic free July why not try buying loose items or visiting a bulk food store who can provide a variety of produce packaging free.



SHOPPING BAGS

Bring your own reusable shopping bags while shopping. Not only does this reduce the amount of plastic you use but also can save costs!

Reusable produce bags are now readily available to collect your fresh produce without using small single-use plastic bags.



TEA BAGS

Did you know that some tea bags contain plastic?

Why not try switching to loose tea for July or switching to tea bags that don't contain any plastic packaging.



For further information on you can make a difference, please visit the following website;

<https://www.dlrcoco.ie/en/environment-awareness-education/plastic-free-july-2021-%E2%80%93-environmental-awareness-campaign>

<https://www.plasticfreejuly.org/>

DISPOSABLE BOTTLES

Replace your disposable plastic bottles with a reusable water bottle that you can refill!



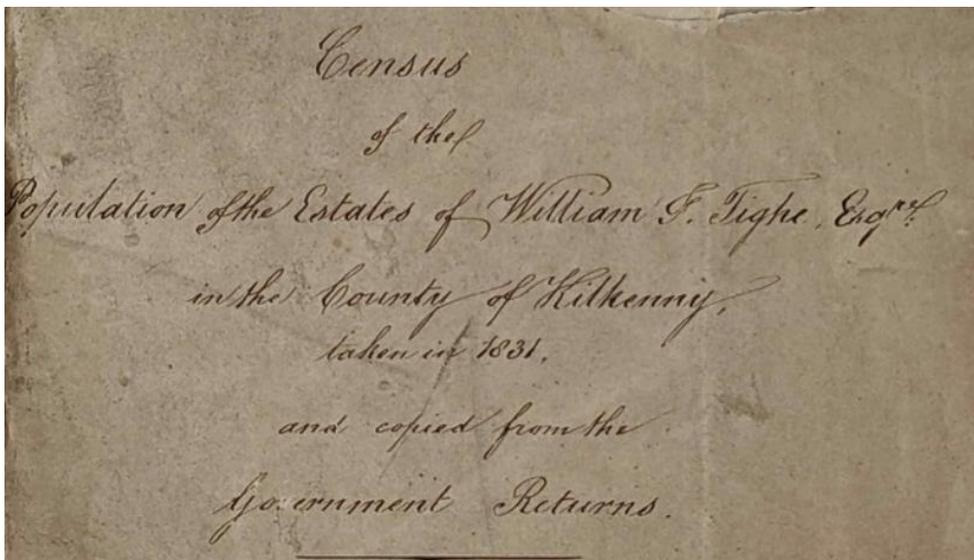
Census 1831 – Inistioge Co. Kilkenny

Original 1831 Census from Inistioge (Ireland's Best Kept Village- its official!) included in the national Virtual Treasury which was launched by An Taoiseach and Minister Catherine Martin on Tuesday 28th June.



In January last, Kilkenny Archaeological Society hosted an online lecture by Dr Ciarán Wallace, Deputy Director of Beyond 2022, has yielded a very interesting and rare document in Co Kilkenny. Beyond 2022 is an all-island and international collaborative research project working to create a virtual reconstruction of the Public Record Office of Ireland, which was destroyed, with the Four Courts on the same campus, in the opening engagement of the Civil War on June 30th, 1922. The 'Record Treasury' at the Public Record Office of Ireland stored seven centuries of Irish records dating back to the time of the Normans. National census documents from the 19th century were a particular loss.

Inistioge resident, Carmel Cummins, was aware of the existence of a copy of the 1831 Census for the area, based on the Tighe estate, the original of which had been lost in the 1922 fire. In 2021, as a heritage project on behalf of Inistioge Tidy Towns, Carmel had worked with Daphne Coad, the owner of the document, and Damien Macauley of Kilkenny Library Service to have it digitised by Kilkenny County Library Local Studies, with a view to making it available on line.



After January's KAS lecture Carmel enquired as to making it known to the Virtual Treasury and was introduced to Dr Brian Gurrin, census expert. Brian was very excited to hear about the document and visited City Library in Kilkenny, to examine and photograph it.

He explained, "This is a transcription of the 1831 Census of the Tighe Estate in Inistioge. The 1831 census of Inistioge parish, County Kilkenny, was taken by Richard Power. At some time a complete copy of the returns for the Tighe Estate was compiled by Thomas W. Innes, a teacher in Inistioge Town, presumably at the request of William Tighe Esq. of Woodstock. The transcription was made on an original Census book that the enumerators would have received to conduct the 1831 Census. That

being the case, this is the only surviving 1831 Census Book. It is a really, really exciting discovery. It's remarkable that it survived in the condition it has."

Daphne Coad, owner of this rare document, told him about its provenance, "This document came into my hands through my late father who was a Land Agent in the area from 1900 to about 1960. This was found among papers when he passed away. It has been sitting in a drawer in my house, with only a few outings in the last 50 years. I'm delighted that people who know about it are now able to look at it. It has gone up in my estimation!"

Ann Tierney, President of Kilkenny Archaeological Society, was equally excited about the discovery "How great is it that Daphne and Carmel, and the people of Inistioge have seen the value of this and have preserved it, and made it available. It's so important because there were others like this throughout the country, and they have been lost."

Brian expanded on what it reveals, "This Census has got an enormous amount of information about the families in the area, breaking them down by occupation, household structure, family structure, religion. It's a remarkable document and the best surviving transcript from the 1831 Census to exist, as far as I know.' At the time Brian gave us no false hope that it might be processed in time for the launch but on Saturday 25th June, he confirmed its inclusion with an invitation to the virtual launch. So much good news for Inistioge in one week! He explained 'You never know how things are going to play out. That was why I downplayed the issue at our meeting in April; but I was determined, as soon as I saw it, to get it into the system.'

Carmel Cummins noted, "These centenary years have encouraged us to reflect on the events leading to, and surrounding, the foundation of the state. In Inistioge, Woodstock House was the base for the Auxiliaries in the southeast during the War of Independence, the house was burned during the Civil War. It's a dark history but that Inistioge is able to offer this phoenix census to Beyond 2022, one of the most positive, exciting and creative projects emerging from the centenary years, is a joy.'

At the launch, the Taoiseach commented 'The Virtual Record Treasury offers an enduring legacy for our Decade of Centenaries. It is an invaluable historical resource for people of all traditions across the island and for everyone of Irish heritage around the world. It is an immense achievement, it belongs to the people of Ireland, democratising access to our rich archival heritage and making our shared history accessible and engaging for everyone.'

The census can be viewed for free on line along with many other documents from 750 years of Irish history at <https://beyond2022.ie/>

Direct link to the census is at:

<https://www.virtualtreasury.ie/item?isadgReferenceCode=VRTI%20M%201%2F4>

Ballivor TidyTowns – Co. Meath

Ballivor TidyTowns are hoping to wean people off single use coffee cups regardless what they were made of, and switch to reusable keep cups instead. With the assistance of the Department for Rural and Community Development the TidyTowns group have produced a special one off coffee cup for Ballivor.

These re-usable cups are being placed at premises in Ballivor which sell take away coffees and teas. The mugs are being provided free in the hope that they will be re-used over and over again. Funding is limited so there is a limited supply of cups available so when they are gone, they are gone.

The cups are in the colours of Ballivor GAA club – maroon and white and feature a photograph of the daffodils in Ballivor by Will Leech, local photographer. A spokesperson for Ballivor TidyTowns said “We are very grateful for a grant from the Department for Rural and Community Development which supported this project as part of encouraging sustainable living and support the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG’s). We continue to get great support from Meath County Council and Ballivor Community Council.”



Photo: Aine Hamilton, Lillian Lee, Noel French and Carmel Hannigan

Studies showed that less than 5pc of single use cups were recycled or composted. Recycling of lids was virtually zero. The likelihood of a cup being composted or recycled are very low, even where it is a recyclable product.

Coffee cups were among the most prevalent litter types found. The Department of the Environment surveys reports that nearly 200 million disposable cups end up in landfill or incinerators each year. They are also a litter blight on our roadsides in our towns and villages up and down the countryside.

A New Single Use Coffee Cup Charge is to be introduced later this year. People will be charged a levy on disposable coffee cups under new Government measures aimed at reducing the 200m cups that are dumped each year. Minister of State for the Circular Economy Ossian Smyth said he hoped the 20c levy would be introduced by the end of the year, but the Government will have to seek approval from the European Union, which will take about three months. This process will begin with a ban on the use of disposable coffee cups for sit-in customers in cafés and restaurants, followed by the introduction of the charge on disposable cups for takeaway coffees that can be avoided completely by using a keep cup.

Changing Places – Transforming Lives Narin, Portnoo, Co. Donegal

The community of Narin/Portnoo has welcomed the official opening of Donegal's first 'Changing Places' toilet facility for people with disabilities and their families.

The facility, located just off the car parking area at the beach, is a positive step towards more inclusive amenities.



Changing Places Ireland

This Step-Down is part of a suite of toilets on the Blue Flag beach front at the Beach Carpark, Narin, Portnoo, Co. Donegal F94 HDX3. The facility has all the features of a Changing Places such as hoist, privacy screen and changing bench. A beach wheelchair is available and can be used safely with Hoist system. The facility is fully equipped with Braille Identification signage, Defibrillator and contact information in emergencies. Opening hours are all year round, Monday – Sunday, including bank holidays, 9.00am – 9.00pm



To find out more information about other locations around the country, please visit;
<https://changingplaces.ie/find-changing-places/>

Well done to all involved in this project especially the great efforts put in by the TidyTowns volunteers, what a wonderful inclusive project.

Climate Conversations - Have your say & spread the word

The Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications, Eamon Ryan, recently launched the Climate Conversation 2022. People across the country are invited to have their say on how we can all play our part in securing our sustainable future. The Climate Conversation 2022 will feed into, and shape, the next iteration of the Climate Action Plan.

An online questionnaire is now open, where people can give their



views on shopping; reuse and recycling; food and food waste; heating our homes and sustainable living; our local environment; and climate change. People can also have their say on how actions in these areas by individuals, communities and Government can help us realise this ambition of becoming a carbon-neutral society.

Commenting on the launch of Climate Conversation 2022, Minister Ryan said:

"Reaching our ambitious climate goals will require changes to many aspects of our lives including our homes and workplaces, how we power and heat them, how we travel, how we grow our food, how much waste we create, and how we manage that waste. Everyone, including Government, communities, industry and individuals, will need to work together to make Ireland carbon-neutral for a sustainable future. That's why it's so important for people to have their say on how we can all contribute to this ambitious goal, how it will affect their lives in practical ways and importantly how we, as a government, can engage, enable, and empower people to adapt and realise the opportunities this transition presents. We have made significant progress on Climate Action Plan 2021, but we have a huge task to bridge the gap between where we are now, and where we need to get to by 2030, and 2050. Stark greenhouse gas emissions projections, released recently by the EPA, underpin the urgency and importance of taking decisive action, not just for individuals and business but across Government. Inaction in any sector now will simply create a greater burden, for us all, in the years ahead."

We would encourage you all to have your say and you can do this by visiting the following link; <https://climateconversations.citizenspace.com/decc/climate-conversations-2022/consultation/intro/>



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



<https://twitter.com/TidyTownsIre>



<https://www.tidytowns.ie>



Bank Accounts

The Banking world has changed so much in recent years and we are now losing some of our banking providers. This will have a consequence for those of you who are currently banking with some of the providers who will soon leave the Irish market.

We are aware that some groups, when attempting to open a new bank account as a TidyTowns group are being asked to provide supporting documentation from TidyTowns. We can provide a letter to you to support your application if this is required, simply drop us an email requesting same and we will get it out to you in a couple of days.

Recent changes with regard to Revenue guidelines require all voluntary groups to be registered for tax purposes. This does not imply in any way that you will be liable for any tax, it is just to ensure that all revenue guidelines are being met.

If you do have to change your bank account and provide us with new bank details there is a specific form we have to send on to you for completion, please do not send us your bank details in an email as that will not be acceptable.

Being set up for tax purposes only takes a short while and many of the groups who won awards in the 2021 competition are now set up and once it is done, it is there for keeps, so maybe when the dust settles and you get a chance to do some paperwork, give some consideration to doing this as it will be a task that will come knocking in the coming months or at a point where you wish to claim a prize from us or apply for grant funding.

Entente Florale 2022



On Friday July 1st, Entente Florale Jury members from Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Germany and Hungary carried out a four hour assessment of Keadue in County Roscommon. Keadue are previous winners of the National competition in 1993 and 2003, winner of Ireland's Best Kept Town and Silver medal winners at Entente Florale.

The weather was patchy on the day but the Jury had plenty to feast their eyes on.

St Ronan's Hall was well decked out in the Entente Florale colours and all of the groups previous awards were on display. The local School were out in force displaying all their projects which really impressed the jury members.





Other stops throughout the visit included the Heritage Park, the Sports Field, Knockranny wood and the cemetery where the famous Turlough O'Carolan is buried. Keadue is renowned for the Harp and this is evident throughout the village. Each year the O'Carolan Harp festival is held in the village.



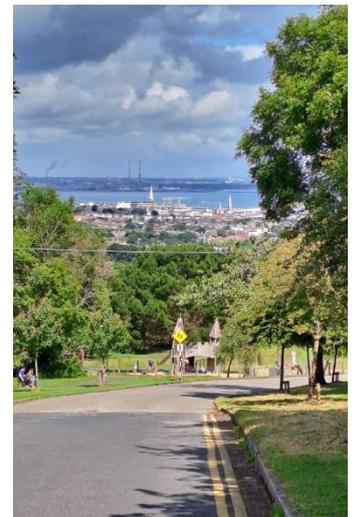
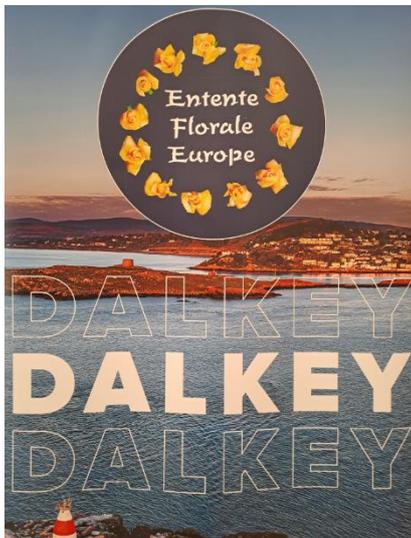
Kilronan Castle was the final stop for the Jury members where they had their deliberation meeting and shared some valuable feedback to Keadue Tidy Towns and Roscommon County Council before taking leave of the lovely village and heading east to Dalkey.



As the jury members were making their way across the country in the rain, and it was raining, coming down in buckets, the folks in Dalkey were busy putting the final touches to their projects and preparing a royal welcome for their European visitors. Early Saturday morning the jury were led by a piper into the Dalkey Castle & Heritage Centre for presentations and displays on local initiatives.



From there the jury visited Writers Corner and Dalkey Hill. Mornington gardens and the Loreto primary school were also on the schedule and both were very impressive. The Village Gate housing went down a treat with the jury with spectacular views.



Coliemore Harbour and Dillon's Park with its Holy well which was discovered by Dalkey Tidytowns after laying covered in overgrowth was looking very well.



Another key project of Dalkey is their Eire 7 sign which was discovered and brought back to life by hard work and dedication. The final stop for the Jury members was a trip to Sorrento Park where entertainment was laid on the musicians and a piper who led the group to the top of the park for spectacular views. As in Keadue, the jury just took time for deliberations after which feedback was provided to Dalkey TidyTowns and Dun Laoghaire Rathdown Local Authority officials.

We want to commend both Keadue and Dalkey for representing their communities, their counties and the country so well on the European stage. The results will be announced in Hungary on September 24th at the awards ceremony and we send the luck of the Irish with both groups and wish them every success.



Communities in Bloom 2022 – Glaslough



The Communities in Bloom Jury arrived in Glaslough in County Monaghan on Friday June 24th and were greeted by Glaslough TidyTowns and Monaghan Local Authority in the council chamber.

On Saturday morning the assessment commenced with a demonstration of all the community initiatives in the Oakland Community Centre where some of the Groups many awards

were on show. Glaslough won the national title in 1978 and again in 2019.



After leaving the Oakland centre, the community gardens, sensory gardens and community market were visited. Great

upcycling in the sensory garden really proving that one man's trash is indeed another man's treasure. The pupils from St. Mary's National School were all back on site for the Jury and really impressed us all with their knowledge and their enthusiasm about biodiversity and sustainability initiatives that they have undertaken.



The Jury were brought to the Integrated Constructed Wetlands and a wonderful guided tour through the grounds and the walled garden at Castle Leslie. We were even graced with a visit from a couple of Eagles.



The assessment concluded with some feedback from the jury and some media interviews.

The results will be announced in Canada later in the year and we send out best wishes to all the team in Glaslough Tidy Towns, Monaghan Local Authority and the community in Glaslough. We will bring you further details on the results of Communities in Bloom and Entente Florale later in the year.



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.



Keep in Touch

That brings us to the end of our July Issue, apologies to the winners of SuperValu gift cards notified in our last Newsletter, we will be getting these cards out to you very soon, sorry for the delay.

We hope you have found some of the information here of benefit, please remember that all past issues are available on the TidyTowns website at www.tidytowns.ie so too is the recently redrafted Handbook which contains a wealth of knowledge across the eight competition categories in addition to a general information section.

We want to thank you the volunteers for all the work you have done and continue to do in keeping our towns and villages looking their best and making them so inviting especially at this time of year when we see an increase in national and international visitors, they are in for a warm welcome.

We wish you all well as the Adjudicators travel around, we also wish our Adjudicators well and hope they travel safely and find you all at your best. Good luck to all our over 880 entrants this year, the competition would not be the huge success it is without each and every one of you.

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. We hope you all enjoy the summer.

Anne, Helen & John

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