

County Monaghan Network of Tidy Towns Groups & Residents Associations



11th February 2021

Quick Newsletter – No Fancy layout this time!!

Hi guys,

I'm afraid Covid has stripped me of my remaining social niceties and I've gone totally feral. I am no longer formatting my newsletters!! One can only hope that a cure is found before I resort to going out in my pyjamas and scaring the children.

Until such time as the men in white coats manage to corner me, I shall carry on until I'm carried off. Here is some stuff I thought you would want to know about.

As always, if you want to contact me, you can get me by email on clambe@monaghancoco.ie or on my mobile 086 8386905

All the best

Carol Lambe

Community Development Officer, Monaghan County Council

1. National Tree Week is going ahead in March but digitally. I will still have saplings to give out. Let me know what you want and I'll arrange to get them to you somehow. The dates are **21-27 March** and the website is www.treecouncil.ie/nationaltreeweek2021. They are running a photography competition with cash prizes that you might want to promote locally. The theme is 'find a tree you love and take a forever picture'. Details of the competition are on the website. First prize is €100 so don't get mad excited!!
2. A letter has come through just today by email from Seanad Éireann, encouraging groups to get involved in the construction of gardens of remembrance, and stating that the Tidy Towns unit has confirmed that there may be extra points awarded for the creation of commemorative gardens in this year's National Tidy Towns competition. There are some template designs by Diarmuid Gavin provided, but it is also acceptable to re-dedicate an existing garden. A guide to the creation of the gardens is available. Email me if you want it.

Here's the letter:

Gardens of Remembrance and Reflection: designed by landscape artist Diarmuid Gavin

Points as part of Tidy Towns competition for installation of these gardens

You may remember in 2016 many counties, towns and parishes installed Gardens of Remembrance. Following on from this very successful initiative and as we continue our decade of commemorations, I am again working alongside landscape artist Diarmuid Gavin on this initiative with the support of Minister for State Pippa Hackett and all the leaders of the groupings in Seanad Eireann are supporting the Gardens of Remembrance and Reflection.

Please find attached a brochure for this initiative as well as a letter from the Tidy Towns Unit within the Department of Rural and Community Development. The Tidy Towns unit have stated that under this initiative, Tidy Towns committees may be in a position to gain points within the competition from these gardens.

Diarmuid Gavin has designed seven template gardens and may be named after women involved in the journey for independence. These garden designs can be replicated, altered or amended in any way deemed fit or indeed a completely different design can be used depending on the location. All these Gardens of Remembrance and Reflection should have three elements in common

- A replica of the 1916 proclamation
- A flagpole for the tricolour a
- Seven threes which represent the seven signatories of the proclamation

As many people were involved in the journey for independence during those years a century ago, it would be appropriate that the proclamation alone would be the only inscribed words in these gardens.

These gardens would be exempted from any need for planning permission by the below regulation

Exempted development, planning and development regs-

Class 33

Development consisting of the laying out and use of land—

(a) as a park, private open space or ornamental garden,

(b) as a roadside shrine, or

The area of any such shrine shall not exceed 2 square metres, the height shall not exceed 2 metres above the centre of the road opposite the structure and it shall not be illuminated.

I would appreciate if you could share this information with community groups, tidy towns committees and others in your county. If they have not already installed a Garden of Remembrance as part of the 1916 Centenary commemorations, they might consider installing a Garden of Remembrance and Reflection in their area. Communities who have installed either garden may wish to officially dedicate or rededicate their gardens on the 11th of July this year to mark the 100th anniversary of the truce during the War of Independence.

If you have any questions or would like any further information on this, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Is mise le meas,

Senator Mark Daly

An Seanadóir Marcus O Dalaigh

Cathaoirleach of Seanad Eireann

Chair of the Senate of Ireland

Leinster House,

Kildare Street,

Dublin 2.

3. There's a bit of money going for groups that enter the national competition. Claim it. You should have received an application form if you entered the 2019 national competition, but if you didn't contact the Dept and get it sent out to you.



The image shows a screenshot of a WhatsApp message. At the top left is the profile picture of 'TidyTownns Ireland', which includes the logos of the Government of Ireland and SuperValu. The sender's name is 'TidyTownns Ireland' and the message was sent 'Yesterday at 17:27'. The message content is: '28th February 2021' followed by a bell icon, 'is the closing date for the TidyTownns Ireland Grant. Please send completed application forms to tidytownns@pobal.ie', and the hashtags '#tidytownns21 #communities'. Below the message is a large graphic with the SuperValu logo (a stylized figure with arms raised) and the text 'SuperValu TidyTownns Caring for our environment'.

TidyTownns Ireland
Yesterday at 17:27 · 🌐

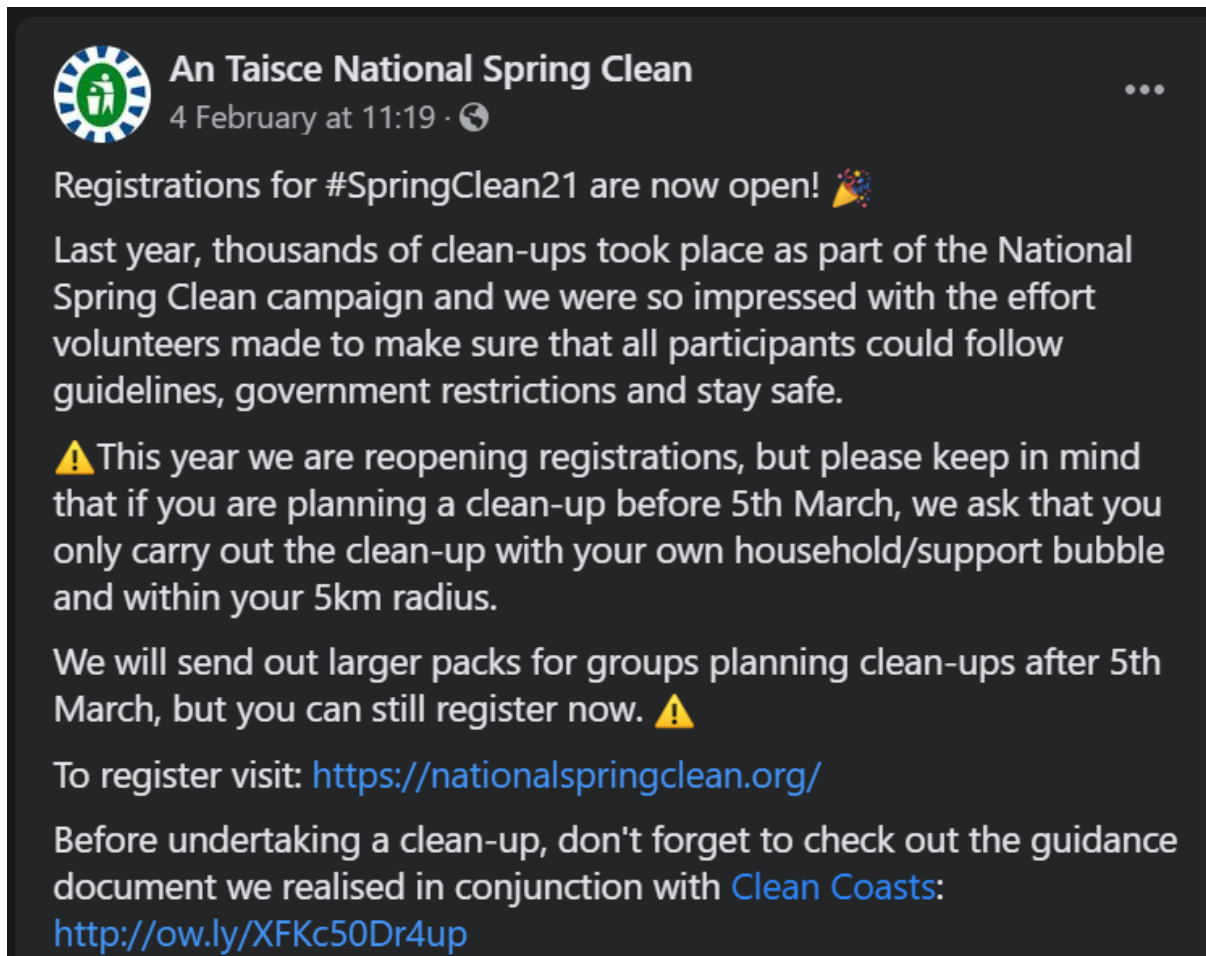
🔔 28th February 2021 🔔

is the closing date for the TidyTownns Ireland Grant. Please send completed application forms to tidytownns@pobal.ie

#tidytownns21 #communities

SuperValu 
TidyTownns
Caring for our environment

4. Monaghan County Council's **Community & Environment Fund** will open shortly. I don't have a date yet. But no, you haven't missed it. The application process is likely to be entirely online this year, so be ready for that. And if you haven't submitted evidence of having spent last year's funding yet, **GET THAT DONE NOW**, because you're not likely to get a new allocation if you have outstanding paperwork from last year.
5. **National Spring Clean.** You can still do one, just carefully with social distancing etc. An Taisce has produced a guidelines to help you stay safe. Download address at the bottom of the article.



The image shows a Facebook post from the page 'An Taisce National Spring Clean'. The post is dated '4 February at 11:19' and is public. The text of the post reads: 'Registrations for #SpringClean21 are now open! 🎉 Last year, thousands of clean-ups took place as part of the National Spring Clean campaign and we were so impressed with the effort volunteers made to make sure that all participants could follow guidelines, government restrictions and stay safe. ⚠️ This year we are reopening registrations, but please keep in mind that if you are planning a clean-up before 5th March, we ask that you only carry out the clean-up with your own household/support bubble and within your 5km radius. We will send out larger packs for groups planning clean-ups after 5th March, but you can still register now. ⚠️ To register visit: <https://nationalspringclean.org/> Before undertaking a clean-up, don't forget to check out the guidance document we realised in conjunction with Clean Coasts: <http://ow.ly/XFKc50Dr4up>

6. Here's a bit of biodiversity training for you 22-26 Feb Registration address underneath



22nd – 26th February. All events Free and online

Discover biodiversity in your own back yard whether it is in your own garden, the local Nature Park or Greenway. Learn how to protect and improve our local ecosystems. Join Europe Direct, Waterford, Waterford Libraries and Waterford Environmental Department for a week of FREE events from 22 – 26 February. All Events are online.

The EU's biodiversity strategy for 2030 is a comprehensive, ambitious and long-term plan to protect nature and reverse the degradation of ecosystems. The strategy aims to put Europe's biodiversity on a path to recovery by 2030, and contains specific actions and commitments.

It is the proposal for the EU's contribution to the upcoming international negotiations on the global post-2020 biodiversity framework. A core part of the European Green Deal, it will also support a green recovery following the Covid-19 pandemic.

22 – 26 February 2021
Biodiversity on Your Doorstep
 Learning from Nature

Coastal Council
 County Park
 County Council
 Europe Direct
 Leabharlanna Phoirt Láige
 Waterford Libraries
 European Commission

For more information check out www.waterfordlibraries.ie/biodiversity-on-your-doorstep

7. Our Heritage Section has been busy – A new Heritage Plan, and a Wetlands Action Plan.

There's going to be a lot of activity around wetlands on account of the focus on Climate Action. Expect funding to be pumped into projects which look at re-wetting low lying areas, and carbon sequestration (eg, planting trees, re-wetting bogland).

We'll be holding a webinar later in the year for you but in the meantime, tis no harm to get a jump on the topic and start thinking about what you could be doing. There could be BIIIIIIIG marks in it for groups which are located near marginal lands!!

County Monaghan Wetland Action Plan 2020-2021

The County Monaghan Wetland Action Plan 2020-2021 aims to develop an integrated plan for the conservation of the wetland resource in County Monaghan, through co-operation and engagement with a wide range of partners and community groups.

As part of this project, the 202 sites for which standard survey information is available thanks to past wetland surveys in the county, will be evaluated in relation to the multiple benefits (ecosystem services) that these wetlands provide.

A web app developed as part of the Monaghan Wetland Action Plan project shows the location of these wetland across the county, and allows local groups and interested parties see the results and outcome of the project.

The map can be viewed at: <https://bit.ly/MonaghanWAP>

- Indigenous knowledge and traditions.
- Cross-border heritage.
- Irish and the vernacular English.

8. A bit of funding is available for vernacular buildings at the moment:



Monaghan County Council

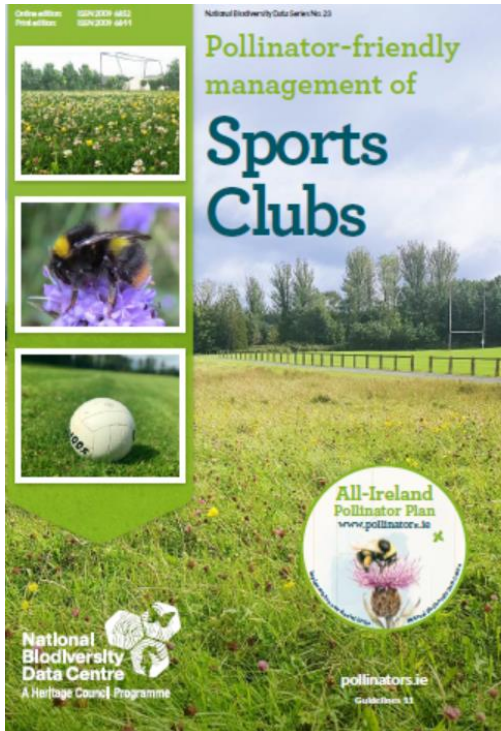
23 November 2020 · 🌐

Monaghan County Council is inviting applications for the Historic Structures Fund 2021 and Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2021. Completed applications should be submitted before 5pm on Wednesday the 24th of February 2021.

Details: <https://monaghan.ie/.../announcement-of-historic.../>

9: If you're working on improving pollinator-friendly habitats in your area, have you thought of how much land is given over to sports clubs in your area, and what the margins around the playing fields could be doing to promote pollinators?

Go have a talk to your local sports club. The changes to their mowing regimes could result in less work for them -and more marks for you in the national competition!!



The National Biodiversity Data Centre (NBDC) have launched a new pollinator advice leaflet to support local sports clubs become more pollinator friendly. If you are a member of a sports club please support this initiative and help to make Kilkenny a safe place for pollinators. To get some tips on how your club could help save our bees go to <https://pollinators.ie/.../Pollinator-Sports-Clubs-guide...>

10: Is your group thinking of taking on a local history project, or doing a heritage trail? Not sure how to go about it? There's a free online course to help with that!

Kilkenny Heritage

18 January at 13:36 · 🌐

Free 'Know Your Locality' online course

The Irish Archaeology Field School, with facilitator Dr Stephen Mandal, are offering a free online course on Tuesday & Thursday from 4-6pm from 16th Feb – 2nd Mar. The tutorials will take you step-by-step through available online sources that will allow you to paint a picture of your home place through its geological, archaeological and historical past. Further details/bookings go to <https://iafs.ie/know-your-locality/>

Ok that should be enough to keep ye out of trouble for a week or two. Talk soon, stay safe!