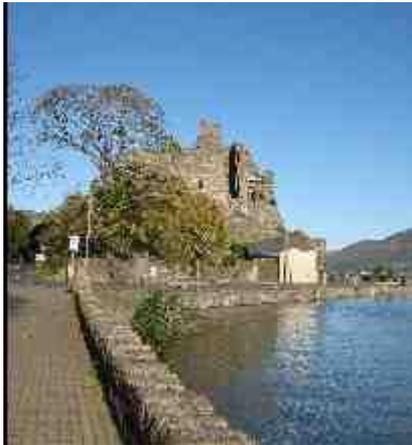


CARLINGFORD COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

APRIL EDITION



This newsletter is jointly produced by the four bodies representing the Carlingford community, namely:

Carlingford Lough Heritage Trust	CLHT
Carlingford & Cooley Tourism Assoc.	CCTA
Carlingford Tidy Towns	CTT
Carlingford Community Development (The Foy Centre)	CCD

Heritage News

The Heritage Centre hosted two ministerial visits in March and April. Minister of State for Tourism and Sport Michael Ring attended a reception in the Centre where he spoke of the community spirit visible in Carlingford. He stressed the need to harness this spirit to continue to present the vibrant tourist product that is Carlingford. The food and drink supplied by the town's hospitality sector was of the highest standard and showed a great unity of purpose to maintain Carlingford's position as a top gastro destination.

Minister with Responsibility for the Office of Public Works Simon Harris visited to announce the timeline for works leading to the reopening of King John's Castle. He was greeted at the Heritage Centre with presentations on how the Trust sees the relationship between it and the OPW developing.



Accompanied by Community Forum Chair Frank O'Brien, Minister Harris receives a presentation from Heritage Trust Vice-Chairperson David McCloskey

A walkabout followed taking in the Dominican Friary, The Tholsel, The Mint, Taaffe's Castle and the Station House en route to King John's Castle. OPW officials explained their plans for an accessible castle by the end of 2016. The visit was beneficial from its highlighting of the work of the Trust to the contacts made with OPW officials.



OPW Principal Officer for National Monuments Frank Shalvey outlines the nature of the works to King John's Castle

While there was disappointment at the omission of Carlingford from the promotional material for the new Ancient East tourism branding, this has not dampened the enthusiasm of the Heritage Trust, working together with CCTA and Cooley Peninsula Tourist Information Centre, to support the brand. Carlingford, with its rich offering of heritage sites and future plans for interpretation, will feature in future updates and has the capacity to be the signature destination of the Ancient East.

The central space of the Station House will host an exhibition by artist Rosemary Warren from May 15-17. The Heritage Trust Committee hopes this is the first of many gatherings to be hosted in this atmospheric space. Plans are moving forward with a view to having the National Thomas D'Arcy McGee Interpretive Exhibit in place in time for this year's Summer School, which takes place from 17th-19th August. A wide collection of artifacts, including the D'Arcy McGee christening robe, have been gathered and in a phased delivery, will be supplemented with information boards and interactive technology. The exhibit is being professionally designed and will compliment the open atmosphere of the building, allowing it to be available for other community uses.

The Community Education Service of LMETB is delighted to offer the QQI Level 5 Community Development programme. This course offers a first step to learners interested in working in their community. It is suitable for individuals who are involved in or who would like to get involved in working in the community/voluntary sector and who would like to gain a

formal qualification. The QQI Level 5 programme is a stepping stone to further study at Institutes of Technology/Universities or alternatively, you may directly enter employment within community organisations. Further information is available from the Heritage Centre.

Carlingford & Cooley Tourism Association News

The 2015 membership renewals are currently being rolled out and we would ask all our members for their continued support this year.

As a member of CCTA and paying your annual membership, you are assisting the association to promote Carlingford & The Cooley Peninsula as a recognised tourism destination. Your membership also enables the delivery of promotional events and festivals which are directly aimed at increasing business and raising awareness of our unique product.

The main objective of our organisation continues to be aimed at increasing business for our members by:

- *Raising the profile of the area through marketing and public relations*
- *Delivering an annual calendar of events*
- *Supporting the local Tourist Office*
- *Seeking to influence policy and action at county and regional levels*
- *Identifying funding and support programmes*

We continue to develop relationships with trade partners and have recently entered an arrangement with The Tourist Office which will greatly improve progress towards our objectives through agreed mutual support of each other.

Members receive the following benefits:

- *Promotion & representation of your business in The Cooley Peninsula Tourist Office*
- *Inclusion in the European Destination of Excellence project and related journalist visits and media coverage.*
- *Inclusion in the annual marketing literature of Carlingford and Cooley Peninsula which is nationally and internationally distributed*
- *Attractive presentation on www.carlingford.ie which currently receives 40,000 visits per week*
- *Representation of your business at regional and national trade shows*

- *A sticker for display recognising your support of this Carlingford/Cooley community endeavour.*

*We invite anyone who is interested in joining the Carlingford & Cooley Tourism Association to contact us on carlingfordie@gmail.com, call us on 086 1973797, or pop into Sinead in the **Station House Office***

The Foy Centre

The Foy Centre ran a very successful play in April called 'Philadelphia Here I Come'. This play by Brian Friel is a classic tale about the relationship between a father and son in rural Donegal in the sixties. It was very well received with full houses every night and standing ovations. Teresa Mc Kevitt directed and Elaine Harold produced.

The proceeds of 6500 euro went to the Foy Centre to help pay bills and the new fire alarm which cost 4700 euro to install. Events such as these are what community is all about. We still need to get more people involved in our community events especially any new families. If interested ring John McKevitt on 0872499103.

Carlingford Tidy Towns

With the recent good weather the pansies have finally come into their own and there are lovely splashes of colour all around the town.

The good weather also brought an influx of visitors and all the businesses are getting a good turn.

Unfortunately the visitors also create severe litter problems and during Easter there were piles of rubbish left between the litter bins which was very unsightly. Although we do everything we can to mitigate against litter problems, by employing the TUS on Friday's and additional volunteers at weekends in addition to the council workers engaged on this task, litter continues to be our main bugbear.

We have been in protracted discussion with Louth County Council over the last year regarding the replacement of corroded litter bins and acquisition of additional ones, but all our requests have come to naught due to financial constraint.

It would seem therefore that we have to take matters into our own hands and attempt to purchase litter bins through fund raising and individual donations.

It is time for even more self help from everyone living and working in the town.

Our Makeover Project for 2015

Work has commenced to reclaim the area to the left of King John's Castle steps from the wild, so that we can plant it up with colourful shrubs. This is one of the main projects that CTT has scheduled for this summer and we hope to have it looking good in line with access to the castle being given to the public in 2016.



Vegetation was cleared to ground level earlier this year by the TUS and now the ground has been loosened up with an auger to make it possible to dig over and remove roots. The ground has also been sprayed with weed killer in readiness for our 'Makeover Saturday'. If you could spare an hour or two on Saturday 16th May, commencing 10 am, we would welcome your assistance.

Adopted Corners

CTT hopes that the 40 stalwarts who adopted corners and containers all around the town will continue to look after them this year.

It is time to give them a clean-up and prepare for this year's floral displays.

There is no question that this adoption scheme is of real value to the overall appearance of the townscape and those who give their time and energy are to be highly applauded.

We know that more work is to take place by the two Brendan's to clean-up the right hand side of the entrance to Trinity Close, but we could do with a few more folk to volunteer their services to maintain and cheer up such spaces for the benefit of the whole town.



As yet no one has come forward to volunteer to look after the D'Arcy Magee memorial garden. This is not a particularly onerous task as the area is already graveled over and so would only require weeding twice or possibly three times during the summer. If you would like to adopt this or another area, please contact Gerry McGaritty on 0872422157.



A view of the beach below the Castle from our archives

Thank you for supporting your community

If you have any ideas or comments please send them to Email: patkins520@btinternet.com and I will ensure they are brought to the attention of the appropriate committee.