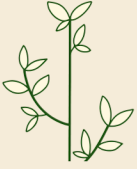




Dromiskin Tidy Towns

Welcome to our first newsletter which is designed and produced to keep the wider community, particularly those not on social media, informed of our work programme, successes and future plans.



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Ginnety's Pond Update!

It has taken a long time to get to this point but with our thanks to the Hand Family for licensing the site to Tidy Towns for the development of a Nature Park, and Louth County Council for supporting our grant application to the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme, work has now commenced onsite. We hope to have works complete by early May which will result in a fully accessible entrance from the car park with pathway leading to the pond and existing pathways surrounding the pond provided with a better surface for the safe enjoyment of visitors. This phase of the works also includes a Pond Dipping Platform and we are currently exploring funding opportunities for interpretative signage, native tree planting and biodiversity landscaping of the site. So busy times ahead for our hardworking committee and volunteers to provide a public amenity for the enjoyment of local residents and visitors to our community.



Celebrating National Tree Week!

We were delighted that access to Ginnety's Pond allowed us to celebrate National Tree Week 2023 in splendid style. Thanks to generous sponsorship of greenfridays4future we were able to take delivery of 32 native Irish trees, one for every year Dromiskin has entered the National Tidy Towns Competition, to create a mini woodland in a dedicated area within the site. We were so happy to partner with the young environmentalists in St. Peter's NS on the planting scheme and delighted to have Councillor Kevin Meenan, Chairman of Dundalk Municipal District, join us for the ceremonial planting.



Working with Residents Associations!



Following our very successful collaboration with the residents of Seabrook and Ard na Tuire last year which saw biodiversity planting undertaken at the entrance to both estates we're focusing on Church View and Bealach na Tuire this year. We were delighted when our application for funding was successful, under Louth County Council's Tidy Towns Project Fund, to help with the cost of undertaking similar landscaping in these two estates this year - the project includes estate name signage and a signature Bee Hotel. Both the residents of the estates and our Tidy Towns Committee will be fundraising to match fund the grant assistance so we'd ask for as much support for our fundraising drives as possible. Not alone will the landscaping be beneficial to the two estates but it will also help our National Tidy Towns application hugely as given its design, plant selection and prominent roadside location along the Commons Road it has the potential to gain marks under four of the eight judging headings in the National Tidy Towns Competition:

1. **Community Planning (collaboration with residents),**
2. **Residential**
3. **Biodiversity (Plant Selection) and,**
4. **Approach Roads.**

Hopefully, therefore it will ensure we retain our Bronze Medal in this year's Competition and perhaps even achieve Silver!



Get ready for the House & Garden Awards 2023!

Judging will take place over the summer months and it is great to see the standard of presentation improving each year so make sure that your garden is blooming with colour and buzzing with nature when the adjudicators visit.



COMING SOON!

A number of projects to further enhance our village and add to its amenity value are at an advanced stage.

1

A replica Phone Box will soon be installed to serve as a Visitor Information Point and will be stocked with information leaflets including our Heritage Trail leaflet and our Get Dromiskin Buzzing leaflet.



Outdoor Clock - we have recently purchased a traditional outdoor clock for display on the Chapel Road along the boundary of the Heritage Park. We are currently considering the best method to display the clock which will be a prominent feature in our community before the end of May. This project is only made possible due to the generosity of Councillor Liam Reilly who has funded it from his Councillor's Allocation.



2

We will shortly be installing an Audio Unit in the Heritage Park the first of its kind in Co Louth and indeed we're not aware of a similar unit in any other Tidy Towns village (we took our inspiration from a similar unit at Victoria Lock in Northern Ireland). We'll also be installing an Ogham Stone feature highlighting the important dates in the history of our community and we'll be providing a second book sign this time featuring birds, bees and butterflies to provide plenty of information on nature. All of these projects are funded by way of a LEADER grant under the Rural Development Programme approved by the LCDC..

3

Sustainability is always a big issue for us and we're delighted to be able to purchase, with financial assistance from a Tidy Towns grant administered by Pobal, an additional 100 of our branded Keep Cups for distribution to those who regularly purchase takeaway coffee. We'll let everyone know when this additional supply is available and we hope they will be well used to reduce the amount of single use coffee cups being used. Latte Levy!! What levy? Avoid having to pay extra for your cuppa by always remembering to bring your reusable cup with you!!

4

5

A number of container Mini Bee Gardens will soon make an appearance in the village thanks also to the Tidy Towns Pobal Grant and a collaboration with Men's Shed. Something to brighten up a few spots and help to get Dromiskin Buzzing!



HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Join our Work Session Team. During the season we meet every Tuesday and Thursday evening from 7pm to 8pm and have a WhatsApp group to let volunteers know where the meeting point is. Yes, it can be hard work but it's also a bit of craic among friends doing your bit to ensure our village looks its best.



Adopt a Patch for Litter or Weed Management! You might not be able to join in formal work sessions but is there a planted area you would be willing to "adopt" as a family, in your own time, for regular weeding? Get in touch and we'd love to have your help.



Join our Clean in 15 Crew to undertake Litter Patrols outside of the lower speed limit areas. Is there a stretch of road near where you live that you could undertake litter patrols on?



Volunteer from home! Maybe you have a skill that you could use in your own time from your own home that you would be willing to share with us? Again let us know - we'd be delighted to have your support.



Follow us on Facebook and encourage your friends to do so as well - it will keep you updated on plans, successes and challenges and you might see something you'd like to get involved with.



If you live within the 50km speed limit your boundary and front garden can make a very positive impact on the National Tidy Towns Judge.

National Spring Clean

Our major National Spring Clean event will take place on Sunday morning 16th April when we'll take to the highways and byways to do a litter blitz. We'll be in touch with our regular supporters but if you would like to be part of the Team to Keep Dromiskin Clean let us know and we'll allocate a stretch of road to you and provide the necessary equipment.



Volunteers don't paid - not because they're worthless but because they're priceless!!

On **Thursday 23rd March** we said thank you to our amazing volunteers at a gathering in St. Joseph's GFC. It was only a small token of appreciation to people who constantly give us their time to make our community shine by litter picking, weeding, planting, watering, fundraising etc. Thank you to our amazing volunteers.

