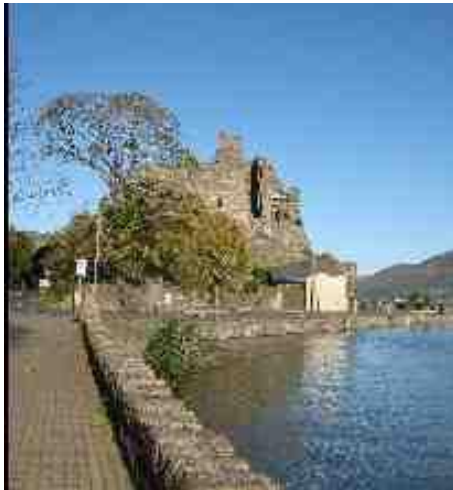


CARLINGFORD COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2019 EDITION



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

<i>Carlingford Lough Heritage Trust</i>	<i>CLHT</i>
<i>Carlingford & Cooley Tourism Assoc.</i>	<i>CCTA</i>
<i>Carlingford Tidy Towns</i>	<i>CTT</i>
<i>Carlingford Community Development (The Foy Centre)</i>	<i>CCD</i>
<i>Carlingford Residents Association</i>	<i>CRA</i>

Carlingford Community Forum News

As we approach our follow up meeting with Louth Council, it is heartening to see that work has begun on the Ghan Folly. This site, together with the concrete supports on the Holy Trinity Cemetery wall have become eyesores in recent years. Not only will the work improve things aesthetically but will help with the Tidy Towns efforts in having to compensate for the untidy appearance of these sites.



The Forum is hoping to arrange a 'meet & greet' with the newly elected members of Louth County Council to inform them of the aspirations and concerns outlined in the community feedback and to familiarise them with the plans of the constituent organisations of the Forum.

We continue our engagement with An Garda Síochána on matters of law and order. We welcome the level of cooperation which we continue to receive.

We are happy to report that under the Town & Village Renewal Scheme, the contractor will begin work on the Strand Lane/Old Quay Lane project within the next two to three weeks. Savings were required to bring the project in on budget and this took some time to negotiate, but hopefully we will soon see activity on site.

The Forum notes that a Part 8 planning notice has been issued by Louth County Council for the development of the next sections of the Greenway, namely from the Station House in Carlingford Town to Carlingford Marina and from Omeath Pier to the National Border.

Heritage News

Carlingford featured in a two-page article in the summer-autumn issue of the Heritage Ireland newsletter. It notes that the castle was most likely built by John de Courcy, the Norman knight who invaded Ulster. At the end of the twelfth century it became the property of Hugh de Lacey, but was seized by King John who stayed there for three days. This is a poor qualification for having a castle named after you, so the consensus is that it should really be known as Carlingford Castle.

If you would like to read the article, a copy is available in the Heritage Centre and it is also reproduced below.

FEATURE CARLINGFORD

The Office of Public Works has responsibility for three of Carlingford's surviving medieval buildings – the Mint in the centre of the town, the Abbey on the southern side and King John's Castle in its prominent location overlooking the harbour.

This castle was most likely built by the anglo-norman knight John de Courcy and later became the property of Hugh de Lacy around the end of the 12th century. It was seized by King John in 1210 who stayed for three days and carried out repairs. The castle is a D shaped 'shell keep' with corner towers and a large twin-towered gatehouse facing the western side.

Carlingford Priory, is a medieval Dominican abbey founded by the Dominican Order c. 1305 under the patronage of Richard Óg de Burgh, 2nd Earl of Ulster, and dedicated to Saint Malachy. Two towers were added to the northwest and southwest corners of the west gable in 1423, giving the church its fortified appearance. Rebuilding took place in the early 16th century. It remained in use until the Dissolution of the Monasteries. The buildings were then used for a hall, a barracks and a handball alley.

The mint is the smallest of the three fortified structures in Carlingford. This 15th-16th century three-storey castle or tower house probably derived its name from the license to mint coinage granted to Carlingford in 1407, and it is believed to be built on the site of a mint established in 1467. The limestone structure includes a battlemented wall-walk, with small holes in the battlements for muskets. A doorway onto the street is protected by a machicolation at roof level. The lack of a fireplace and the extensive defensive structures have led to theories that this

building was used as a mint, but it could as easily have been the home of a wealthy merchant family. There are impressive ground and first storey ogee windows that face onto the street. The panels feature a horse, a bust of a man, a bird, a snake and broad interlace ornament which is said to reflect a revival of Celtic art in the 15th and 16th centuries. Over the top of each window is an ornate hood, the surrounding stones are skilfully decorated with pecking, and the window openings are protected by iron grills.

The town-gate (Tholsel) is one of only a few remaining in Ireland. Only fragments of the original wall that enclosed the town remain; this gate would have insured that taxes were levied on goods entering the town. The structure was altered in the 19th century, completely removing the third floor and reconstructing the second to support a modern slate roof. It has since been used as a gaol during the 18th century and a Parliament is said to have used it to make laws for the Pale.

As well as general upkeep and maintenance of the monuments in its care the OPW has in recent years carried out works to improve public access to the Castle. These included reopening the original access from the bridge and provision of a pedestrian walkway around the outside of the northern or seaward side of the castle. This path way was necessary to create a safe access around the cliff side where previously there was a rough scramble across the rocks.

The OPW is fortunate to have the cooperation of Carlingford Lough Heritage Trust who have worked tirelessly to ensure that their town centre remains vibrant but also true to its origin and identity. They view heritage not as a constraint, but as a resource used to promote and create interesting places.

When the Trust was founded in 1990, Carlingford was - in the words of one Trust committee member - "quite derelict". The still-active border with Northern Ireland meant restricted travel to and from Newry and Belfast and in those pre-motorway days the journey to Dublin was significantly

longer than it is now. There were local employers in Greenore, or Dundalk, but commuting to farther afield was much less common. Many of the buildings in the town centre, both residential and commercial, were vacant. The Trust started out with a Business Plan and successive Community Plans followed. Today Carlingford is a flourishing small town. The M1 motorway has meant that commuting to Dublin or Belfast for work is a reasonable option, and the removal of border posts makes towns like Newry and Derry much more accessible. Carlingford has become a popular destination for overnight breaks and the population of the town can more than double on busy summer weekends. It is perceived as an attractive place, both to live and to visit.

The town is undeniably picturesque, set between Carlingford Lough and Slieve Foy, with numerous surviving medieval monuments, town walls and a largely intact medieval street plan in addition to significant built heritage from later periods, including Georgian Ghan House and the Holy Trinity Church.

Holy Trinity Church, now Carlingford Heritage Centre, was the Carlingford Lough Heritage Trust's first project. The Trust acquired a lease on the building in 1991 and used Fáilte Ireland funding linked to a Heritage Towns designation to develop it as a heritage centre. With great foresight, the Trust retained the building's capacity to function as a gathering place (the central space is left free, display panels can be folded away when not in use) and today a significant portion of their income is generated from its use as a venue, particularly for civil marriage ceremonies. A portion of the Fáilte Ireland funding was used to appoint a director, a recent graduate from the then new Heritage Management MA at UCC. Trust members point to this appointment as significant and argue strongly that ongoing access to professional expertise for community-led projects is vitally important.

The conservation of the Holy Trinity Church and the launch of the new Heritage Centre is remembered as the

▲ Facing page, (top):
King John's Castle, Carlingford
© Tourism Ireland

▲ (bottom): Holy Trinity Church,
now Carlingford Heritage Centre.

www.heritageireland.ie 23

FEATURE CARLINGFORD



'The Mint'



'The Thosel'

View of Carlingford. Images: © Tourism Ireland



first significant inward investment in Carlingford in modern times. It marked the beginning of a change in the town's fortunes. The Trust's next project, however, was the one that really changed the look and feel of the town: the pedestrianisation and redevelopment of Tholsel Street.

In 1992, Carlingford was the first town in the Republic of Ireland to receive International Fund for Ireland (IFI) funding under the Border Towns and Villages programme, to be used for the re-development of Tholsel Street. The Trust also acquired a derelict site on the street, using a Local Enterprise Office grant. The street was pedestrianised, medieval monuments conserved and four town houses with ground floor retail units, three further shops and four apartments were built on the derelict site. The town houses and apartments were sold and two retail units were retained, to be operated by the Trust as an incubation space for start-up businesses. Income from these units, along with income generated by the Trust from the hire of the Heritage Centre as a venue and other sources, goes into a pot that is used to supply match funding for any grant applications that require it.

Other regeneration projects delivered by the Trust include: the floodlighting of King John's Castle, the provision of playgrounds and the conservation and reuse of the nineteenth-century former Station House. This last was used first as a health centre and subsequently as a tourist office.

Carlingford joined the Irish Walled Towns Network (IWTN) in 2005 and has availed of IWTN funding to conserve and repair its surviving sections of the town wall. The IWTN also provides funding for medieval-themed activities during the summer months, and training to Trust members on aspects of heritage-led urban regeneration.

In 2013, Carlingford Lough Heritage Trust was instrumental in setting up Carlingford Community Forum. This brings together local community and business interest groups with representatives from a broad cross section of Louth County Council, including forward planning, parks and recreation and civil engineering. The aim is to encourage more joined-up thinking, particularly on public realm projects, and to provide a forum - open to members of the public - where the community's voices can be heard.

Contact details:

Carlingford Lough Heritage Trust
 Carlingford Heritage Centre, Carlingford, County Louth
www.carlingfordheritagecentre.com. Tel: 042 9373 454

The Foy Centre

Coming Soon to the Foy Centre!

Singing Lessons in Cooley.



Director/Head Teacher is Nicole Ring, International Soprano.

All ages are welcome from Beginners to Advanced. Lessons in Classical, Musicals, Trad, POP and Jazz. Commencing October 7th 2019.

Contact: 353857130045.

Email: cooleysingingacademy@gmail.com

Twitter: @AcademyCooley.

Carlingford Knights Juniors

Carlingford Knights Junior Rugby commenced a new season on Saturday 31st August and welcomed 6 to 12 year old children free of charge for a fortnight, to try it out prior to becoming signed up members.

As a result, Carlingford Knights Juniors are growing all the time. On Saturday 21st Sept there were 140 children on the pitch including visiting teams from Banbridge. Many thanks to Jonathan for his generosity in providing food for all the children.

The Orchard Bakery

The Orchard Bakery will be hosting their next Pop Up night on Friday 1st November. See Facebook page for menu details.

Keep Fit Classes



Keep Fit Classes with Marie continue daily as follows:

Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 9 30am-10 30am. Tuesday and Thursday: 7pm-8pm.

If there's anything you would like to see happening in the centre or on the pitch

please contact 0876331701.

Carlingford Tidy Towns



The wonderful bee friendly garden in the heart of Carlingford.



CTT held a Spring Bulb planting session on Thursday 12th September.



Some mysterious new little residences were spotted on the green recently...



Discarded cigarette butts have long been a problem in Carlingford despite the fact that most know they are non-biodegradable. They are also quite a problem to sweep up due to their size and habit of getting into cracks in the pavement. Please dispose of them in the bins we have provided if you are out and about. Under no circumstances, empty car ashtrays into the gutter, do this at home when you are cleaning the car and don't make this yet another task for CTT to have to clean up after you!



CTT held a Big Beach Clean on Saturday 21st September in conjunction with the An Taisce Clean Coasts National Big Beach Clean 2019 and succeeded in cleaning all the way from the harbour out to the junction with the Greenore Road.

Our volunteers didn't park that bicycle there, we found it on the beach covered in seaweed. Neptune's trident (oddly with an additional prong) was also recovered.

Great News in the Pipeline

Carlingford TT has made it to the National Finals of Tidy Towns 2019! The last time Carlingford we were nominated and won our category was back in 1988.

The focus of Tidy Towns is not only on appearance and aesthetics but lately on following the recent trend of restoring our environmental biodiversity and protecting our bees, butterflies, birds etc. This year, Carlingford TT has planted pollinators, let the wild flowers repopulate through the grass, planted fruit trees and raised awareness of the importance of biodiversity in our community. Many

thanks to the volunteers and the people of Carlingford who have supported this initiative, be it through giving their time, financial support and sponsorship.

The results will be announced on Monday 30th September. Watch this space...



Find us on [Facebook.com/CarlingfordTidyTowns](https://www.facebook.com/CarlingfordTidyTowns)

Please note we would welcome more contributions from Carlingford Community groups such as Residents Groups, sports and other active clubs.

If you run a local community group and would like to advertise your past or future events in this newsletter, please contact the undersigned.

Thank you for supporting your community

If you have any ideas or comments please Email them to patkins520@btinternet.com

and I will ensure they are brought to the attention of the appropriate committee.