

## **Ballina, Terryglass, Order of Malta (Thurles) and Civil Defence (North Tipperary) nominated for Prestigious Pride of Place Awards**

Four North Tipperary communities are busily preparing for the judging phase of The Pride of Place Competition which will take place on 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of June. Ballina town, Order of Malta (Thurles), Terryglass village and Civil Defence (North Tipperary) will represent North Tipperary in various categories in the annual competition.

Pride of Place is an all-Ireland competition which is designed to recognise improvements made by local communities to create civic pride in their area. It recognises and celebrates the vital contributions that community partnerships make to society. The focus is on people coming together to shape, change and enjoy all that is good about their local area.

### **Ballina, North Tipperary**

The scenic village of Ballina, located on the banks of the Shannon is appreciated by tourists from near and far and by locals alike. Popular activities include boating and fishing and there is a strong, well regarded restaurant scene in the village.

Riverside Park is most attractive with an outdoor swimming pool, a slipway for launching boats and a jetty for mooring, it also has ample parking.

Local people are very active in the enhancement and promotion of the village and there are numerous examples of their efforts. Notice boards detail the indigenous

flora and fauna and locals have fostered these through careful habitat management and promotion.

Ballina has a rich heritage and this is captured in the village's heritage trail that is well laid out and popular. Ballina is a warm and welcoming village for local and visitor alike.

### **ORDER OF MALTA IRELAND (THURLES UNIT)**

In 1948 the Order of Malta established a unit in Thurles to provide First Aid, Ambulance and Community Care services, public first-aid training and the operation of the Order of Malta Cadets (a broad-based youth organisation for 10-16 year olds) in local communities in the surrounding area.

The Order of Malta is a voluntary organisation that provides transport for people with disabilities and older people to hospitals, day care centres, church services and social functions and covers all major sporting events. The unit are currently erecting a state of the art Unit Headquarters with training facilities in Thurles, the projected opening date is late 2011.

The unit provides a reserve Ambulance Service to the statutory services when required. The Ambulance Corps is operated entirely by volunteers with the support of a small administration staff and does not receive any government funding. Each Ambulance Corps unit raises funds locally and is self-financing.

## **Terryglass, North Tipperary**

The charming village of Terryglass is on the North Eastern shore of Lough Derg in North Tipperary. During the first millennium it was an important monastic site which produced part of the 'Book of Lenister'.

Since 1969 the community have sought to preserve and enhance their idyllic surroundings by undertaking many projects. What was a grown-in lane to the lake is now a public road with fabulous facilities and a beautiful harbour that was extended this year. All stone walls around the village have been restored or re-built. An arts festival is in operation for the last 13 years. Current projects underway include developing a new walk behind the church and a new wall and green area in the village.

The involvement of the school, local historians and North Tipperary County Council has helped the community immensely with our work in making Terryglass such a wonderful place to live in.

## **North Tipperary Civil Defence**

Civil Defence is a volunteer based statutory humanitarian organisation, established over 60 years ago and dedicated to assisting the civilian population in times of crisis. Its secondary role is providing community support at local, regional and national events.

Members attend training classes in many disciplines, such as, First Aid, Search and Rescue, Fire Fighting, Water Rescue, Radiation Monitoring, Radio Communications,

and the welfare of those evacuated during an emergency. Many courses run by Civil Defence are FETAC accredited.

The Civil Defence service is administered by the Civil Defence Officer in each local authority. The budget in North Tipperary of approximately €100,000 per annum is grant aid by the Civil Defence Board at 70% with 30% provided by North Tipperary County Council.

The mission of Civil Defence is to support the emergency services and to provide community support by promoting, developing and maintaining Civil Defence as an effective volunteer based organisation.

Liam Bergin, Pride of Place liaison officer with North Tipperary County Council, explains

“North Tipperary County Council is delighted to nominate Ballina, Terryglass, Order of Malta (Thurles) and Civil Defence (North Tipperary) to represent North Tipperary in the 2011 competition. We believe this competition provides the opportunity for these community based groups and organisations to showcase and highlight the valuable work they deliver to their respective communities.”

Táimid an-bhródúil as ucht an obair go léir atá ar siúl ag grúpaí mar seo. Dúirt an Contae Bainisteoir, Matt Shortt, go dtugann grúpaí mar seo dea-shampla don phobal den mhéid gur féidir a bhaint amach nuair a oibríonn daoine le chéile.

If any group in North Tipperary is interested in show-casing their achievements and community activities in the Pride of Place Competition in future years they should contact Liam Bergin or Deirdre Cox, Pride of Place Liaison Officers, North Tipperary County Council.

ENDS

Deirdre Cox

Environmental Awareness Officer

067 -44784