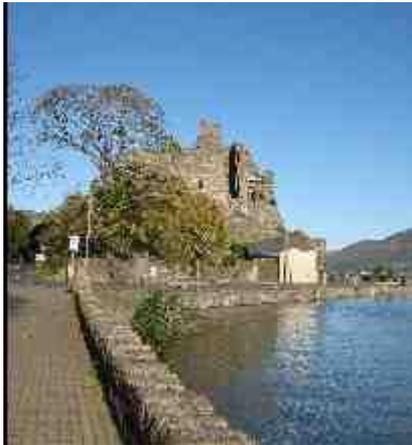


# CARLINGFORD COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

## JANUARY EDITION



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

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|---|-------------|
| <i>Carlingford Lough Heritage Trust</i>                       | <i>CLHT</i> |
| <i>Carlingford &amp; Cooley Tourism Assoc.</i>                | <i>CCTA</i> |
| <i>Carlingford Tidy Towns</i>                                 | <i>CTT</i>  |
| <i>Carlingford Community Development<br/>(The Foy Centre)</i> | <i>CCD</i>  |

### *Heritage News*

***For twenty four years, Carlingford Lough Heritage Trust has been the driving force in the preservation and restoration of the medieval town's iconic structures. Sympathetic development of disused and derelict sites has enhanced the town's streetscape. Each restoration and development is undertaken to be sustainable and add to Carlingford's community and business offering.***

***The Annual General Meeting of Carlingford Lough Heritage Trust and Carlingford Heritage Ltd. takes place on Monday, 26<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30p.m. at Carlingford Heritage Centre. An open invitation to attend is extended to everyone living, working and operating a business in the town and to those with an interest in or connection to the town. Membership is open and all members have the opportunity to be involved in the Trust's fulfilling work through election to the management committee. We look forward to identifying potential future committee members on the night.***

***Since its inception, the Trust has delivered the following projects:***

- ***The restoration of Holy Trinity Church of Ireland as a Heritage Centre, concert and conference venue***
- ***The refurbishment of The Tholsel***
- ***The floodlighting of King John's Castle***
- ***The development of townhouses with ground floor business potential, apartments and enterprise units on a derelict site on Tholsel Street / Old Quay Lane***
- ***The Children's Playground***
- ***Publication of an Antiquarians Guide & Town Trails***

- ***A study of Taaffe's Castle***
- ***Establishment of Carlingford Community Forum***
- ***We are a partner in the delivery of the annual Thomas D'Arcy McGee Summer School.***

***In December, the Trust celebrated the official opening of the Station House, which will be occupied by fellow community organisations and enterprises in the coming months. This wonderful asset will act as a catalyst to further development of the area along the seafront. All of these projects have been dependent on successfully challenging for public funding and imaginative fundraising on behalf of successive voluntary committees.***

***A number of new projects, along with enhancements to those already delivered require the Trust's focus moving forward. Matching funding is needed to enable the drawing down of substantial grant aid. An appeal for corporate and private donations is ongoing to continue the Trust's work and reap the community dividend that Carlingford deserves.***

***Carlingford Lough Heritage Trust held its AGM on Monday, January 26<sup>th</sup> at 7.30p.m and a new committee was duly elected for 2015.***



*The addition of stainless steel railings completes the front of the Station House*

## ***Carlingford & Cooley Tourism Association News***

*A quiet time of the year for the CCTA, - time to get our festivals for the coming season organised but looking forward to moving to our new office in the recently refurbished Station House.*

*The Feile Mi na Nollaig was once again a great success with a wonderful atmosphere throughout the village over the weekend's festivities. A big thank you to everyone involved in the organisation and participation during the festival and it was wonderful to see the continued support of the event by both locals and visitors alike.*

*Saint Brigid's Day, 1<sup>st</sup> of February will be with us soon and will be celebrated with the Brigid of Faughart Festival. See [www.brigidoffaughart.ie](http://www.brigidoffaughart.ie) for details.*

*The date is strongly associated with Imbolc the Gaelic festival symbolising the beginning of spring. Imbolc is mentioned in some of the earliest Irish literature and there is evidence it has been an important date since ancient times. It is believed that it was originally a pagan festival associated with the goddess Brigid and that it was Christianized as a festival of Saint Brigid.*



*The celebration of Imbolc is not restricted to the Irish tradition, Candlemas, the presentation of Jesus Christ as an infant at the temple coincides with Imbolc and the Winter Imbolc Festival, in which the 'triumph of the Green Man' (who represents the coming spring), over Jack Frost (the winter) is celebrated with fire juggling and giant puppets in the town of Marsden in England.*

*Imbolc was believed to be when the Cailleach—the divine of Gaelic tradition—gathers her firewood for the rest of the winter and if she wishes to make the winter last a good while longer, she will make sure the weather on Imbolc is bright and sunny, so she can gather plenty of firewood. Therefore, people would be relieved if Imbolc is a day of foul weather, as it means the Cailleach is asleep and winter is almost over.*

*At Imbolc on the Isle of Man, where she is known as Caillagh ny Groamagh, the Cailleach is said to take the form of a gigantic bird carrying sticks in her beak.*

## *The Foy Centre*

*Christmas and the New Year was a quiet time at the Foy Centre. At the moment we are preparing for Feile Na Tana which is a traditional music weekend being organised by John McIntyre and Zoe Conway.*

*This event will take place on 6th 7th and 8th of February and, with some of the best traditional musicians in the country as tutors, this promises to be a great event.*

*'Philadelphia Here I Come' will be the play the Carlingford Players are putting on at the end of March. We wish the Carlingford Players every success with this production.*

## **Carlingford Tidy Towns**

*There have been some new additions to the town in recent weeks; notably, the new Bus Stop and work is in progress to install Street Lighting in Ghan Road. These improvements by Louth County Council are welcome additions to our infrastructure.*



*We have received lots of favourable comment concerning the winter bedding plants that have been installed this year, so here are some photos of the plants that are bringing us some winter cheer.*



*Benny, the ex-stone mason, TUS worker is making good progress repairing the crazy paving adjacent to the steps up to King John's Castle.*



*TUS workers, Kevin and Conor, have been continuing their useful employment in clearing overgrown areas around the town, including clearing the stone beds at the Omeath end of the town, so that these can be planted up in the spring.*



*Tidy Towns and workers on the community employment scheme attached to the Heritage Trust have jointly embarked on a major project to clear the barrier on the Greenore Road. The workers are to be applauded for achieving such work, by hand, at this time of the year.*



*We are sorry that we omitted to thank Paul Woods last month for his work on the Omeath Road. Also, thanks are due to Peader who has given the village green two cuts prior to Christmas - completely free of charge.*

*The new cast iron notice board will be erected in Dundalk Street this coming week.*



### **DOG POO**

*Despite campaigns in recent months the subject of Dog Poo continues to be a real problem in our town.*

*There is absolutely **no excuse** for this now that poo bags are available every few hundred yards attached to lampposts. Any dog seen roaming unaccompanied should be reported.*

*We urge all dog owners to **BAG IT and BIN IT!***

*Thank you for supporting your community*

*If you have any ideas or comments please send them to*

*Email: [patkins520@btinternet.com](mailto:patkins520@btinternet.com) and I will ensure they are brought to the attention of the appropriate committee.*