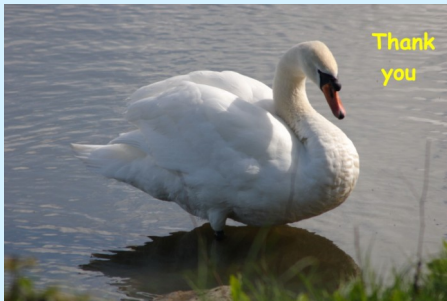


Message from the President of Carrick on Suir Lions Club

The River Suir is steeped in history and has been used and loved throughout the ages by the early Christians, the Vikings, the Norsemen, the Tudors, the fishermen, the towpath crews and many more and now it is our turn. It is our turn to nurture it, to protect it and to hand it on to the next generation perhaps even in better condition than it is today. To do so we must be aware of our impact on the river and commit to doing what is right for the biodiversity of the river in totality. In particular we must commit to stop the dumping and littering of the riverbank. If the maxim *"We will protect what we love, we will love what we understand and only understand what we are taught"* holds true, then I hope this booklet helps to teach us to look closely at all aspects of the heritage of our river and to work together to protect this unique and wonderful heritage.

Carrick on Suir Lions Club, celebrating 50 years service in 2019, are delighted to be associated with the Blueway Project as the River Suir is at the very heart of the community we serve. We are enthused by the very positive response to our Environmental Charter and thank everyone who continues to help us with our campaign to **keep the River Suir and the Towpath clean, green and litter free**. Keep up the good work and thank you all for making a difference.

Ann Ellis
President
May 2018



Thank
you



Thank you

Published by Carrick on Suir and District Lions Club
Assisted by Tipperary County Council under the Anti Illegal Dumping Initiative 2017



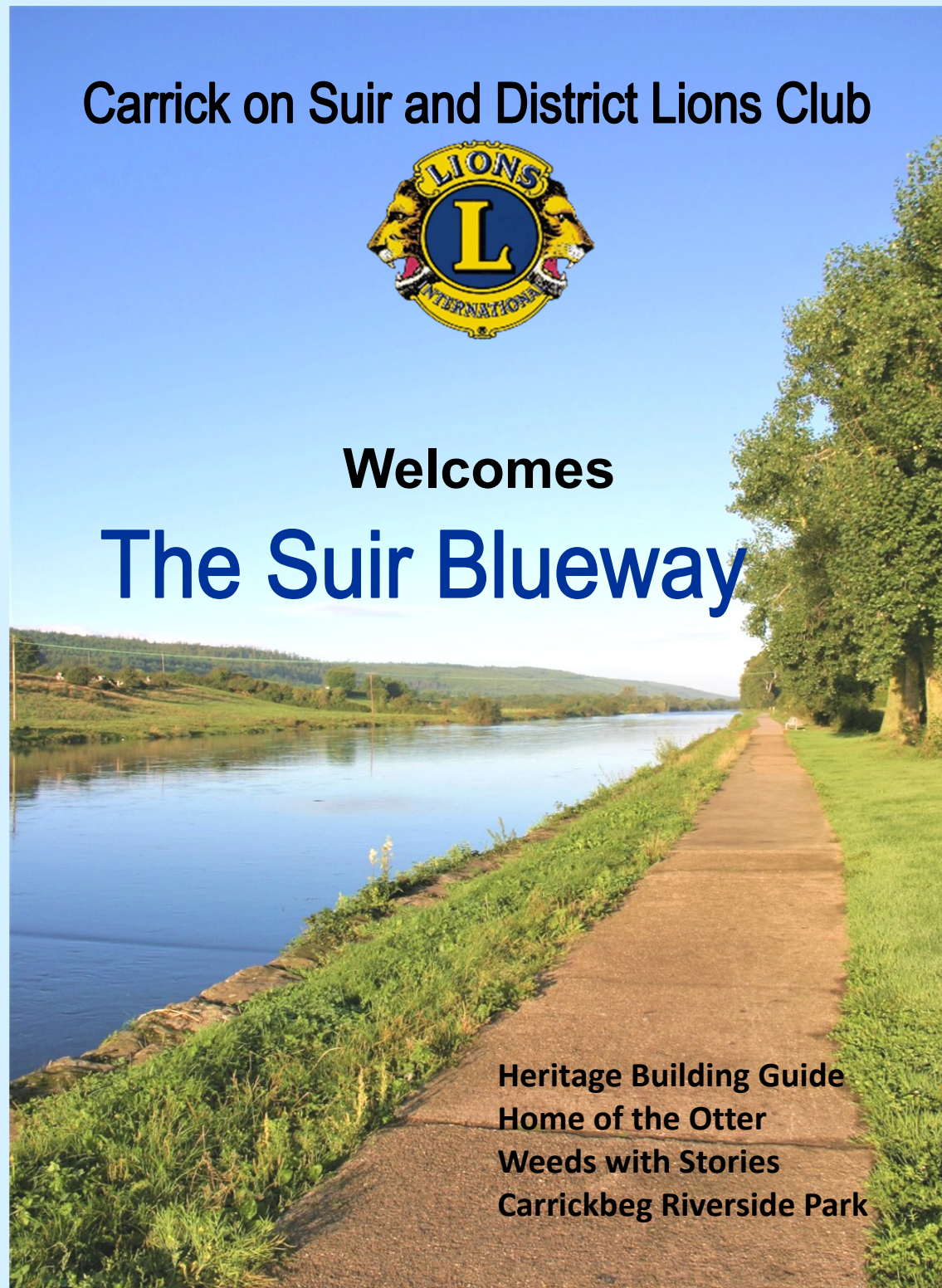
Comhairle Contae Thiobraid Árann
Tipperary County Council



Carrick on Suir and District Lions Club



Welcomes The Suir Blueway



Heritage Building Guide
Home of the Otter
Weeds with Stories
Carrickbeg Riverside Park

A Selection of Heritage Buildings on the Carrick to Clonmel Towpath Blueway

1. Ormonde Castle:

Our starting point is the Tudor Manor/Ormonde Castle, built in 3 distinct phases with the original castle existing at 1309 to which the fortified towers were added in 1450 followed by the Manor House in 1565. Thomas Butler, aka Black Tom, 10th Earl of Ormond and cousin of Queen Elizabeth added the Manor House which includes a magnificent long gallery and outstanding decorative plasterwork. The Manor House is the best example of an Elizabethan manor house in Ireland.



2. St. Molleran's Church:

St Molleran's Church on the south side of the river at Carrickbeg stands on the site of a friary built in 1336 possibly on the site of a former castle. Fragments of the medieval ruin are incorporated into the present building. The Earl of Ormond gave the land to the Franciscans who occupied the site until the suppression of the monasteries under Henry VIII. The bell tower is part of the medieval structure and is a unique architectural feature that looks like the tower reaches its foundation in a corbel stone midway on the north facing wall. The front wall at Abbey Height was built 1840s as a Famine relief scheme.



3. The Old Bridge:

The Old Bridge may have been started as early as 1306. However, it was in the year 1447 that it was upgraded to its present form under the Ormond family. This is one of the most handsome stone bridges in Ireland and it pre-dates the voyage of Columbus to the New World. For some 300 years, this was the only bridge over the river between Clonmel and the sea. This conferred further economic potential to the area by linking Co. Waterford with counties Tipperary and Kilkenny. The bridge is steeped in history. Cromwell's army crossed the bridge with 5,000 foot soldiers and 2,500 on horseback on the way to Waterford in 1649. Ireland's biggest inland drowning tragedy took place here in 1799 when 91 souls were lost including 50 children, 34 women and 7 men, when a boat carrying the families of soldiers coming from Clonmel failed to berth and crashed against the bridge. Men were hanged from the bridge including Maurice Quann who was hanged in 1811 for raiding a house in Tinhalla. The arch on the southern side was blown by Republicans during the Civil War.



"Making a Difference"

4. Davin's Weir and Tower:

It is said that the science of constructing fishing weirs similar to this one at the very height of the tidal stretch of the river was brought to Ireland by the Franciscans. The tower on the Waterford bank overlooking the weir was built by Lord Waterford in 1820 's and the fishing rights later transferred to the Davin Family. It is more of a decorative folly than a deterrent to salmon poaching at the weir.



5. Dove Hill:

Dove Hill Castle is a 14th century tower or keep, erected by the Normans to keep watch on the river which was the main access route at that time. It was in the possession of Connel O' More, a native Irish Chieftain in 1348. In 1542 it was garrisoned by Sir Thomas Butler of Cahir, but later taken back by the Earl of Ormond. A century later it seems that its 6 occupiers were massacred after failing to understand and surrender to Lord Inchiquin who was marching on Carrick after it had been captured by Cromwellian troops.



6. Churchtown Burial Ground:

The remains of the ancient church on the south side of the river stand forlorn above an immaculately maintained burial ground of the former Parish of Dysart, one of 3 former parishes that now make up the Parish of Carrickbeg and Windgap. Here lies the remains of Colonel James Roche of Glyn Castle; the "Swimmer Roche" one of the foremost Williamite heroes of the Siege of Derry in 1689. In a corner facing the river is the gravestone of Maurice Davin, Carrick's famous athlete and co founder and twice former president of the GAA.



7. Glyn Castle:

The house known as Glen (or Glyn) Castle was built by the Everard family whose lands were later confiscated and granted to Colonel James Roche in recognition of his role at Derry and who is buried in nearby Churchtown. In his final days it is said that he caught salmon whilst fishing from his own window sill. The house is built on the site of a more ancient castle, the partial remains of which can be seen from the Towpath.



8. Poulakerry Castle:

This is more accurately a tower house rather than a castle, commanding a sharp turn and crossing point in the river. It is an example of a fortified gentleman's dwelling from the period 1540 – 1600 and it was built by the one of the extended Butler family – Butler Fitzwilliam. The Butlers were tried on a number of occasions for extortion and seizing goods in transport from Waterford to Clonmel.

On his way from Kilkenny to Clonmel Cromwell sent a Lieut Col. Sadlier to Poulakerry and he took the tower house and killed all of its defenders. It was in ruins until the 1970's when it was repaired and remains in use as a residence.



9. Kilsheelan Old Church and Graveyard:

Kilsheelan (Síolán) ... the church of Sillan—an early Irish saint who was abbot of Bangor Abbey, Co. Down and died in the year 608 or 610. The church ruins date from the 12th century and features an Irish Romanesque carved stone doorway. The attractive wildflower area between the graveyard and the river is a lesson from the local Tidy Towns group that Japanese Knotweed can be eliminated with perseverance and hard work.



10. Kilsheelan Norman Motte:

This is a typical example of the Earthwork and timber keeps or mottes of the Anglo-Norman invasion of Ireland that were used to hold the country down during the military phase of the campaign in the 11th/12th Century. The "motte" is a Christmas-pudding-shaped mound of earth constructed from the up cast from the excavation of the fosse around it, reaching in height to almost 10 m. The Grotto was created in 1948.



11. Kilsheelan Bridge:

The attractive 3 arched humpback bridge with a smaller dry arch for pedestrian and barge activity was erected in 1820, almost 500 years after the Old Bridge in Carrick.



12. De La Poer Castle:

Gurteen Le Poer, a large Baronial house built in 1863-66 by Samuel Roberts for Edmund, 18th Baron le Poer and Curraghmore on the site of a Georgian mansion of 1826 which itself replaced an even earlier building, is set on the southern bank overlooking the River Suir. The Gurteen De La Poers lost out on a claim to be the rightful heirs of Curraghmore but the monument



on the back road to Carrick defiantly records them as "De Jure" Lord Waterford. The castle is owned by the controversial Austrian artist Gottfried Helnwein and was the venue for Marilyn Manson's marriage to burlesque artist Dita Von Teese in 2005.

13. Killaloan Church:

The roofless ruin of Killaloan Church is still attractive and remarkable for the excellent quality of its cut stone finishes. The church was built in the period 1825 to 1827. The family vault of the Osborne family is found here in the mausoleum/ graveyard. The entrance (from the north) was realigned in the late 1800s to align with the entrance to the Osborne's stately Newtown Anner House.



14. Tickincor Castle:

Tickincor ... the house at the head of the weir..here Alexander Power built his fortified house in Tudor style during the reign of James 1st. His lands were subsequently attainted and granted to the fanatical puritan and priest hunter Major Thomas Stanley. After his death the property passed to the Osborne family who were friends and supporters of Grattan's Irish Parliament.



15. Sir Thomas Bridge:

Sir Thomas' Bridge was built in 1690 by Sir Thomas Osborne, who had lands on both banks of the river. He moved from Tickincor to a new dwelling on the north side of the river at Newtown Anner. It was the scene of the sinking of the Avondale... a yawl with 13 tons of coal



on its way from Carrick to Clonmel. A ballad was published in 1903 in the Nationalist commemorating the event called "The Wreck of the Avondale".

16. Minella Hotel:

The Malcomson's, a Quaker family built up a commercial empire of international importance, and at its peak included; shipbuilding corn milling, cotton manufacture, salmon fisheries, extensive railway interests, in addition to ownership of a coalmine in the Rhur Valley and a tea plantation in now Sri Lanka. They built the cotton mills in Portlaw and had a holiday home in Dunmore East. Thomas Malcomson's neo-classical mansion, Minella was built in 1863 and became a country house hotel 100 years later in 1963.



17. Gashouse Bridge:

The 5 arch humped back Gashouse bridge signalled the end of the road for the horse drawn barges on the Towpath and would have been a welcomed sight after the hardships of the journey. The horses returned by the road and the barges or yawls floated back to Carrick with the current. The Gashouse Bridge was built in 1825 and has pedestrian arches on either side. The Old Bridge is a much older structure of medieval origin but that's another journeybeyond the Towpath.



The Blueway Environmental Charter:

The Lions Club have cleaned the riverbanks and promoted an Environmental Charter for the Blueway as part of the Anti Illegal Dumping Initiative in 2017 and 2018. Almost 40 organisations in Carrick signed the Charter to pledge support to keep the riverbank clean and tidy. Such widespread support inspires us to continue with our planned environmental projects for the benefit of the town and those who visit us.

Go raibh maith agaibh go léir.



Environmental Charter River Suir Blueway

We support the Carrick on Suir Community campaign to eliminate illegal dumping and littering in our River and local amenity areas.

We commit our organisation and our members to eliminate litter in our activities and we encourage our members to participate in the community campaign to keep the Riverbank, the Towpath, Sean Healy Park and the Carrickbeg Bog Field clean and green.

Signed by:

On behalf of:

CarrickHome of the Otter

Along the riverbank at Carrick on Suir is one of the best places in Europe to see otters in their wild natural environment. The Eurasian otter has vanished from most of Europe and Ireland remains a stronghold of this usually secretive and beautiful animal. The normal density is 1 otter per 5km of river but at present they are in much higher density on the Blueway. In Carrick, the otters are more tolerant of the onlookers on the riverbank than in other known locations and locals have got some terrific photos and memories. They love to play and can travel up to 15km in one night. They are very graceful in the water and can stay totally submerged for 4 minutes during which time they can travel 400m.



Otters in Carrick have a very varied diet that includes eels, flounder, trout and perhaps the very abundant dace. In the upper stretches of the Suir River the main component of the otter's diet is the whiteclawed crayfish. A genuine concern is that the significant reduction in eel and

trout numbers and the sudden entire wipe out of the native crayfish due to the plague in May 2017 has taken away much of the otter's natural food supply and that this will impact on the success of future generations of this loveable animal. We might well be watching the last of the otters!

Dumping in the drains and watercourses and along the riverbank is detrimental to the free movement and health of the otter and if they could only talk they would say **"please stop"**. All of us owe it to the otter and indeed to future generations to keep the river and the riverbank in a clean and healthy state. Indiscriminate dumping has to stop. When otters are disturbed they can let out a hissing sound. It is time for the vast majority of people who love the river and always do the right thing to start 'hissing' at those who do not and who don't care about their actions. **Together we can keep the Blueway clean and green.**



Thank You

"Kindness Matters"

Even the Weeds have Stories

Under the New Bridge a clump of riverbank vegetation might be looked on by some as just another bunch of weeds...but each has a purpose and a little story of its own!



Take the white flowering and beautifully scented **Meadow Sweet** in the background (Queen of the Meadow) used extensively long ago as a floor covering as it was warm underfoot and overcame smells and infection. A sacred herb to the Celts and favourite herb of Queen Elizabeth 1, It was used in the production of the sweet alcoholic drink 'mead' and its botanical name is Spiraea from which the drug Aspirin derives. Now look at the yellow flowers in the foreground of the **Common Fleabane**. These were gathered and burned to smoke out rooms so as to eradicate the scourge of fleas. Finally, the tall beautiful upright stands of the **Purple Loosestrife** were used by herbalists for the release of stress. It is home to 5 specialist insects and has a unique reproductive mechanism.

All these native plants provide the biodiversity, the range of moths and insects that provide food for birds, bats and fish further up the food chain on the riverbank. Indiscriminate dumping and over trimming causes loss and destruction of the native plants and consequent loss of biodiversity all along the food chain. Another other great challenge is to first stop the rapid spread and then to tackle invasive species already present in Carrick on Suir in great quantities such as the **Japanese Knotweed** and particularly **Himalayan Balsam** which is spreading rapidly and will crowd out and supplant local native wildflowers. Other nasty invaders such as the **Giant Hogweed** are trying to get established also but if caught early, like this one at the Old Bridge, they can be removed easily.



The Bog Field Carrickbeg

The Lions Club are committed to the creation of a really good quality public amenity space and the protection of the riverbank and natural habitat at Carrickbeg. The views of the river and the countryside are truly beautiful from here and the degradation in recent years has been somewhat reversed by the Lions Club's environmental activities and regular clean ups. Much more remains to be done however.



In 2017 we provided 3 marble seats for public use at Tobar na gCrann to mark the Centenary of Lions Club International. Each seat has a different inscription "as Gaeilge" designed to inspire our thoughts:

- 1. "Ar bhóithrín na Smaointe in aice le Tobar na gCrann"** Beside the historic well, Tobar na gCrann (the well of the trees), where locals came to draw water and where countless meetings and conversations took place. Ar bhóithrín na smaointe is simply 'down memory lane' and people are invited to reminisce on people and times past.
- 2. "An Charraig – don Laoch agus don Mhadra"** A translation of 'Carrick for a man or a dog' interpreted as meaning that Carrick is the best place for a hard working man and for a good dog. Nearest the river, this seat has views of the Bridge, the Castle and the Navigation.
- 3. "Tóg go bog é agus lig do scíth"** The word bog in English is derived from the Gaelic word *bog* meaning soft and this is the ideal seat for a family picnic on a spot where you are invited to 'Take it softly and rest yourself a while'.



The Way Forward

We will continue to work towards the development of a riverside amenity at Carrickbeg that will make us all proud of the most visible and meaningful space in the heart of our community. Other agencies and property owners will have to engage in the process but the Lions Club are willing to build on the foundations already in place and to lead the way on the fulfilment of a long awaited dream. It can and it will be done.

"Ní neart go cur le chéile"

This is us:



Carrick on Suir Lions Club members are local men and women from all walks of life, who volunteer their time and expertise to help organise events and to fundraise throughout the year. Together we strive to improve the quality of life for those who need support in our community and beyond. Our services include;

- Annual Trabolgan Holiday for Senior Citizens
- Annual Charity Walk for Local Charities
- Annual Carers Weekend for local Carers
- Annual Senior Citizens Christmas Party in conjunction with JSvDP
- Christmas Food Appeal in conjunction with SVdP
- Support of Community Initiatives e.g. Mens Shed
- Individual and Family Support in the Community
- Sponsorship of Senior Citizens at Musical Society Events
- Sponsorship of Family Day for the Clancy Brothers Festival
- Used Spectacle Collection
- Funding to Guide Dog Association
- Funding of Defibrillators
- Emergency and International Disaster Relief.
- Health Screenings
- Message in a Bottle
- Young Ambassador of the 21st Century Youth Award
- Youth Peace Poster Award
- Lions Club Youth Soccer Tournament
- Environmental Projects, Bog Field Carrick Beg
- Blueway Clean and Green Project
- Collaboration with Tidy Towns
- Annual An Taisce National Spring Clean

Carrick on Suir Lions Club is proud of the community we serve and proud to be awarded the Lions District 133 Club of the Year 2017/2018.