

LAOIS 2016 COMMEMORATION PLAN: The plan for how communities across Laois will commemorate the Centenary of the 1916 Rising will be formally launch on 26th November at 7.30pm in Áras an Chontae, Portlaoise. All are welcome.

CONGRATULATIONS: to Jonathan Walsh, 10 Erkindale Drive, Durrow and Maricia Horan, Birr, Co. Offaly on their recent marriage.

Congratulations to Niall Brophy, Carrigan Street, Durrow and Emma O'Connell, Cullohill Village on their recent engagement.

DURROW GUN CLUB: The 1st of November is fast approaching and Durrow Gun Club would like to thank the local landowners for the use of their land. We are very conscious that without their generosity we could not function. Thanks also to anyone else who supports us in any way throughout the year, to The Castle Arms for the use of their facilities and Bob's Bar who promote our lotto sales. New members from the area are welcome - we'd love to have some new enthusiastic members. Shooting is a healthy, active sport enjoyed by young and old throughout the country. Our emphasis is as always on game protection. For more information contact any member of the committee.

MUSIC CLASSES: Adult Music classes will be held in Heritage House, Abbeyleix every Thursday night. Beginners welcome. Flute, whistle, guitar, banjo taught. Good craic to be had by all the participants. The Tutor is highly qualified and experienced. Contact us via email on ccespink@gmail.com or directly to Heritage House or by phone on (086) 6071258.

IRISH RURAL LINK: Basic Computer & Internet Training for Beginners - Are you working in the Rural Community, Farming, Senior Citizen, Unemployed? "Irish Rural Link" is a non-profit organization. We are holding training sessions to provide Basic Computer Training for people throughout Ireland. Location: Durrow (*Venue to be Confirmed*); Date: Saturday 14th November from 10am to 12pm. To book a place contact Mary on (086) 8422029.

LAOIS KAYAK & CANOE CLUB: *Interesting in Kayaking:* Kayaking is now moved to week-ends due to closing evenings, if you would like to kayak, please keep an eye out on our Facebook page www.facebook.com/laoiskayak also at the website www.laoiskayak.com online.

JACK'S GOLF SOCIETY: Jack's Golf Society Christmas Hamper outing will be Saturday 31st October in Esker Hills Golf Club Tullamore. All golfers are most welcome. Contact Declan on (057) 8736280 or (087) 9893044 to put your name on the timesheet.

ORIENTEERING: Our local orienteer, Conall Whelan will be competing for Ireland in the Junior Home Internationals at Magilligan Sand Dunes this Bank Holiday weekend. Junior teams from Scotland, Ireland (all counties), Wales and England will battle it out in County Derry. Conall will run an 8km course on Saturday and relays on Sunday. More info at www.orienteering.ie online. The next local orienteering event will be held at Castlecomer Park on 22nd November, all are welcome.

FISHING: Durrow/Cullohill parish Anglers are holding their final Pike fishing competition of the season on Sunday October 25th on Grantstown Lake, Ballacolla. Best of Luck to all involved!

DURROW TIDY TOWNS REPORT 2015: *Built Environment and Streetscape-* Most of the buildings – both public and commercial- of the town looked very well on the day. Work was underway at the main square. The buildings surrounding it looked well cared for on the day- of note being Bowe's, Sheppards, which was quite elegant, and the Copper Kettle. Bob's Bar by the old stone bridge looked very well also. Lawlors and its planted displays are always an attractive welcome to the town on the Dublin approach. The castle and grounds looked as well as ever and the Castle Arms Hotel opposite was also well presented. Dec's bar was very fresh. The fire station was fine but could be painted up before next year's competition. The National School on Chapel Street looked well but the glass box containing statuary could be painted up before next year's competition.

The magnificent stone church looked extremely well. We look forward to your restoration of the old Methodist Church on Patrick Street. We were pleased to hear of the extension of the footpath on the Ballacolla Road. An empty premises on the Dublin side of the village opposite Lawlors looks unfortunate. The Civil Defence Building will need repainting before next year's competition. The post office was quite fresh and the Garda station was reasonably fresh but its boundary wall could be repainted before next year. The unusual hall with its marvellous stained glass window was admired but its tri-centennial mural should be repainted before next year. The magnificent Church of Ireland on the square looked quite magnificent. The Bank of Ireland could be painted before next year- it was a little stained on the day.

Landscaping & Open Spaces- There was an abundance of hanging baskets and window boxes displayed throughout the town which gave streetscapes a very cheerful appearance. The window boxes to the railing of the old courthouse looked most cheerful. An incidental landscaped space with bog oak and seating on Chapel Street was greatly admired. The marvellous mill wheel and associated planting on the Dublin Road looked very well.

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