

**DURROW BRIDGE CLUB:** The results of Durrow Bridge Club President Josie Murphy Prize are as follows: First - Teresa Phelan and Nora Fitzpatrick; Second - Marie Foley and Jack Murphy; Third - Phil Kingston and Paddy Purcell; Fourth - Dolly Harding and Ann Fitzpatrick; Fifth - Fr. John Lalor and Ann Dooley; Sixth - Rose Talbot and Sadie Phelan; Seventh - Nancy Bennett and Paul Maher; Eighth - Margorie McGeough and Kathleen Broderick; Ninth - Alice Bowe and Johnny Bowe; Tenth - Gay Doyle and Mary Shortall; Eleventh - Josie Murphy and Bridget Murphy. First Session - Ella Walsh and Mairead Woods; Second Session - Pilar Delaney and Peggie Duggan, Theresa Muldowney and Jimmy Ryan, Fr. Martin Delaney and Marian Sherman. Player of the Year: Ann Fitzpatrick. Well done to all involved!

**PUBLIC MEETING:** Do your local Rivers, Lakes, Streams, Canals and Wetlands matter to you? The Waters and Communities Office are hosting a public meeting to discuss the natural waters of County Laois. If you are interested in water quality, angling, heritage, biodiversity, amenity use or issues affecting your local waterways then this is an opportunity to have your say. We will present information on the latest draft River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2018 - 2021 along with details on how you can input into the final plan. The Waters Communities Office aims to get local communities more involved in valuing and protecting our local waters and these meetings provide an opportunity for you to have your say. Basil Mannion, Community Waters Officer for Laois will present this information and facilitate a discussion on the issues raised. There will be refreshments after the meeting and opportunities to network at The Castle Arms Hotel, Durrow on Thursday 1st June from 7pm. For more information contact Basil on (086) 8599514, email [bmannon@lawco.ie](mailto:bmannon@lawco.ie) or visit [www.watersandcommunities.ie](http://www.watersandcommunities.ie) online.

**BUS TO BLOOM:** A bus has been organised for the Bloom Garden Festival 2017 on Thursday 1st June. Anyone interested should contact Susan on (087) 2574477 as soon as possible.

**LAOIS AGE FRIENDLY:** Laois Age Friendly in association with Laois Older People's Forum are holding a Presentation Workshop on the Laois Age Friendly Business Recognition Scheme in County Hall, Portlaoise on Thursday 18th May at 10am. This Workshop is for the Mountmellick/Borris-in-Ossory Municipal District only. It's easy to make your business age friendly. Most age friendly practices are low to zero cost i.e. providing customer seating, making toilets available to older customers, having clearer signage, offering smaller portions, special offers for older customers or providing a magnifying glass or spare glasses can mean a big difference. Simple changes such as making your business easier to find, enter, move around and make purchases in are good for your customers and better for your business. By promoting a business as an Age Friendly Business you are letting older people know that you value their custom and you are committed to serving them. This is a 2 to 3 hour presentation workshop and if your business would be interested in attending please contact Geraldine Delaney, Community Development Section, Laois County Council on (057) 8664107 or [agefriendly@laoiscoco.ie](mailto:agefriendly@laoiscoco.ie) by email as soon as possible.

**NATIONAL VOLUNTEERING WEEK 2017:** May 15th to 21st is National Volunteering Week. Laois Volunteer Information Service will be promoting this via a stand in Laois Shopping Centre on Wednesday 17th May from 11am until 4pm. This will give potential volunteers an opportunity to come and find out more about volunteering and sign up for volunteering opportunities. It is also a great point of contact for charities and community groups that want to register with Laois Volunteering Information Service or that need advice and support, particularly in the area of recruiting or managing volunteers.

**DURROW-CULLOHILL PARISH ANGLERS:** Durrow-Cullohill Parish Anglers held another Trout Fishing Competition on Sunday April 30th for the Bill Kelly Memorial Cup. The winner with a beautiful fish was Declan McDonald, Second placed was Tommy Coffey and Third placed was Pat Dunphy. The Juveniles U14 winners were: Shane Townsend, Eoghan Carroll, Liam Townsend, Shane Shortall and Keelan Carroll

**All-Ireland Champion:** Congratulations and very well done to Tommy Coffey, Derrywood, Durrow and Vice-Chairman of the Durrow-Cullohill Parish Anglers on winning the All-Ireland Pike Fishing Competition recently. The competition had 55 anglers competing for the top prize from all parts of Ireland and it was held on the River Suck in Ballinasloe, Co. Galway. Tommy's afternoon fishing landed him with a total catch of sixty two pounds and fourteen ounces which was superb and won the competition. Tommy's bag man for the day was another great fisherman from Durrow - David Walsh. A big part of the prize is that Tommy will be Captain of the All-Ireland team that competes against Great Britain in October. A great honour for Tommy and his family and for the local fishing club. Everyone wishes Tommy all the best in October and in the years to come.

**LAOIS KAYAK AND CANOE CLUB - Open Night:** Laois Kayak & Canoe Club will hold its Open Evening this Friday, 12th May from 7pm to 9pm. All are welcome to visit our Clubhouse at the Old Bridge in Durrow and try out kayaking. All equipment will be supplied - just bring a towel and spare change of clothes. Places are subject to availability and are allocated on a first come basis.

**Marathon Racing:** Big congratulations to our Junior Paddlers Noah Murphy on taking home silver and Artie McDonald who took home bronze in the recent Celbridge Marathon Race. *more overleaf >>>*