

An oasis of calm, where the horse is king



GLASLOUGH
CO MONAGHAN
IRELAND



INFORMATION
PORTFOLIO

ENTENTE FLORALE EUROPE 2017

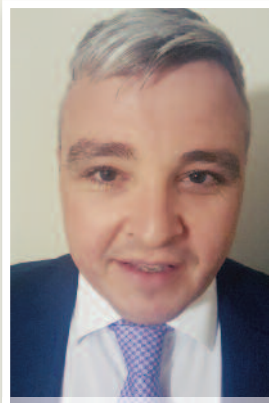
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The Boathouse at Castle Leslie Estate.

FOREWORD



Gareth Corrigan.

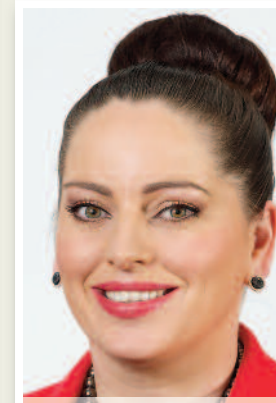
Welcome to beautiful Glaslough, an oasis of calm tucked away between counties Monaghan, Armagh and Tyrone. We were both thrilled and honoured to be nominated to represent Ireland in this year's Entente Florale competition. We hope to do Ireland justice, and that you enjoy the best of scenery and hospitality during your stay with us.

We have thoroughly enjoyed participating in Entente Florale, and we look forward to travelling to Podčetrtek, Slovenia, in September for the announcement of the competition results.

We hope that you will love our village as much as we do, and we look forward to sharing it with you on the 6th of July.

Gareth Corrigan

Entente Florale
Steering Committee Chair



Cathy Bennett.

It is a very special privilege to welcome the International Jury of Entente Florale to Co. Monaghan to adjudicate Glaslough as one of Ireland's representatives in this year's competition. Co. Monaghan may not be one of the better known tourist destinations of Ireland, but we are confident that after spending a day in Glaslough, you will agree that this will not be the case for much longer.

The people of Glaslough are rightfully proud of their village, and take great care of it. They also take great care of each other, especially those who cannot look after themselves.

They have a vision of the kind of community they wish to hand over to the next generation, and they have developed partnerships with a number of organisations – including Monaghan County Council – to help them to implement their vision.

Monaghan County Council is very proud of the Glaslough community – so much so that we nominated them for a national Pride of Place award in 2011.

You will understand why when you visit on the 6th of July.

I look forward to meeting you then.

Cathy Bennett

Cathaoirleach
Monaghan County Council



A carpet of fragrant wild garlic carpets the woodlands each Spring.

BEAUTIFUL GLASLOUGH



Fáilte go Glaslough - Welcome to Glaslough.



Castle Leslie.



The village is proud of its success in the National Tidy Towns competition, which it won in 1978.

Glaslough, Co. Monaghan, is situated very close to the border with Northern Ireland, about 80 minutes' drive from Dublin and 60 minutes from Belfast.

The name Glaslough translates from Irish as the 'calm or green lake' in reference to the beautiful lake situated within Castle Leslie Estate on the edge of the village. It is reputed to contain pike (Esocidae) weighing up to 20 kilograms!

Records of settlements in the Glaslough area trace back to the 5th Century. The modern village was founded to house the workers on the Leslie estate some 350 years ago, and owes its street layout and many of its buildings to that period.

The first castle estate house was built in 1608 by Sir Thomas Ridgeway, who was Treasurer of Arms to the English Throne in Ireland at the time. It was sold to the Leslie family in 1665, who have lived here ever since.

The castle sits on 1,000 acres (4km²) consisting of a mix of lakes, wetlands, parkland and woodlands. The woodlands include trees which date back to the founding of the estate.

The Leslies had quite an influence on the world over the years: the Leslie family paid for the education of their cousin, The Duke of Wellington, Britain's greatest military strategist, who defeated Napoleon at

Waterloo. Winston Churchill was also a cousin of the Leslies.

Glaslough is important to soccer historians also. The goal net was invented by a Glaslough man, John Alexander Brodie, and Liverpool Football Club was founded by another, 'Honest' John McKenna.

The fortunes of the local people and Castle Leslie have always been interlinked. During the Great Famine (1845-1849), the Leslies suspended rents and gave employment to many through famine relief projects such as constructing the walls which still border the estate today. They also ran soup kitchens to feed the starving people of the area.

Today, the hotel and equestrian centre on the estate give employment to over 150 full time staff, making them one of the largest employers in Co. Monaghan.

There is a very strong sense of community in Glaslough, and a tradition of volunteering. There are twelve voluntary groups in the village, all working to improve the area for the people who live here. They are supported by local businesses and Monaghan County Council, and are guided by a Community Development Plan which brings together the work of each organization into one vision.

The community works hard to pass this spirit on to the next generation, to ensure that Glaslough continues to be a special place to live.

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT



The Gothic Gate Lodge.



The 'green lake' of Glaslough.



Some of the Listed buildings on Barrack Hill.

Approximately 350 people live in Glaslough, with a further 2,100 living within 2km of the village in the traditional dispersed settlement pattern of rural Ireland.

The County Development Plan provides for the proper planning and sustainable development of Co. Monaghan. It lists Glaslough as a 'Tier 4' village, indicating that appropriate development in the village should consist of basic services to the community and small scale residential development.

Based on the existing built footprint of the village, a development envelope has been set in order to protect the character of the village and to prevent ribbon development and urban sprawl in the surrounding countryside.

Within the County Development Plan's schedules of protected structures, there are two protected structures of national importance in Glaslough - Castle Leslie and the Gothic Gate Lodge. There are eleven protected structures of regional importance within the Castle Leslie estate and nine others within the village and locality. There are a further 18 structures of local importance.

It is an objective of the County Development Plan to designate Glaslough as an Architectural Conservation Area (ACA). In conjunction with the local community, an

ACA Statement of Character is currently being prepared.

This will identify the unique character, landscape and historic core of the village so that further development and evolution can be undertaken in a way that enhances its distinctive qualities.

The village benefits from a strong Tidy Towns ethos, being the overall winner of the National Tidy Towns competition in 1978. The Tidy Towns committee works to a three-year plan.

The village currently holds a gold medal in the national competition, and has been within three points off winning the national title in each of the last two years.

A special feature of Glaslough life is the closeness to nature created by the trees. This, and the work on biodiversity which is done by the Tidy Towns committee, has led to the great respect for the environment which is felt by everyone in the community. The local children won two national awards in 2016 for their environmental awareness work.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

All sewerage from the village, and from the Leslie estate, is routed to an Integrated Constructed Wetlands, which is located on the grounds of the estate. The amenity was built in 2007 for 40% of the cost of constructing a conventional sewerage

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT...contd

treatment plant, and it costs almost nothing to run – bacteria and plants do all the work. Monitoring results show the quality of the outgoing water actually surpasses the quality of the receiving river.

The community is working with Monaghan County Council to create a greenway from Monaghan town along the disused railway line out to Glaslough village, to provide a sustainable travel option for both commuters and tourists.

The most recent council-community collaboration is a Better Energy Communities project, which will see 80

homes in the area receive free energy audits and free heating control units. The work is being funded 80% by the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI), with the remaining 20% funding being provided by the Council.

Once the homeowners receive their energy audits, the Council will follow up with them individually to help them make applications for further funding to carry out home improvements that will improve the energy efficiency of their homes.

This will be the biggest energy makeover of a village ever attempted in Ireland.

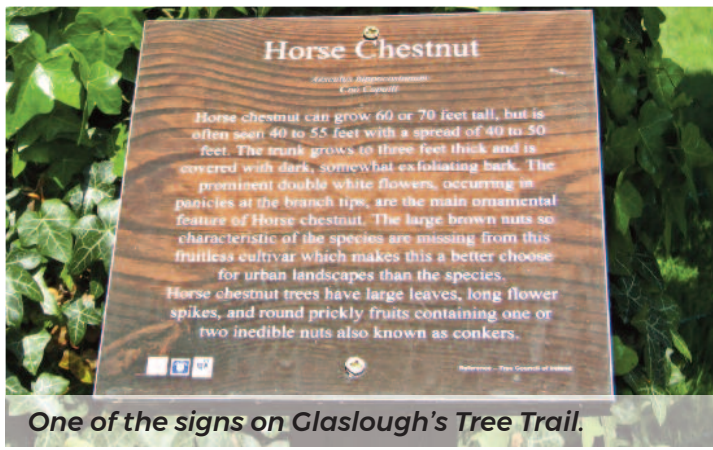


One of the stunning floral displays on Main Street.



Plans are underway to develop a greenway to the village.

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT



FLORA & FAUNA

Things can get a little noisy on Main St., especially around dusk, as the jackdaws (*Corvus monedula*) return to the Rookery behind the castle walls. There are herons (*Ardea cinerea*) nesting underneath the Rookery, convenient to the lake and presumably also to the pub!

The predominant species of fish in the local lakes are pike (*Esox lucius*) and roach (*Rutilus rutilus*). Brown trout (*Salmo trutta*) can be found in the rivers. The estate is known as a sanctuary for hares (*Lepus timidus hibernicus*), which thrive under the cover provided by the uneven grazing patterns of the horses.

Glaslough's Tree Trail, which features over 20 different species, won a National Tree Council of Ireland award in 2011 and the Leslie estate features a Pinetum (a plantation of pine trees).

There are two other wildlife walking trails in the village.

Fallen trees are left, where possible, to provide habitat and a re-planting scheme is in place across the estate to replace trees lost in severe weather events. Dead wood is also left standing in place, to support wildlife, as part of a wider habitat management plan. The castle's Victorian 'country garden' planting scheme, which is pollinator-friendly, is carried out into the village.

INVASIVE SPECIES CONTROL

Monaghan County Council has a plan in place to deal with invasive species. Patches of Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*) are identified by signage to prevent them from being inadvertently trimmed, thus causing them to spread further.

The local, community-led, River Blackwater Catchment Trust carries out river clean-ups to remove giant hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*), and is working with the Local Authority Waters and Communities office to provide training on recognising and dealing with invasive species and raise awareness of river management practices to protect local fish populations.

ENERGY, SUSTAINABLE WASTE & RESOURCE USE

All the water for the flowers in the village is collected from rainwater stations around the village.

The local schools won a national award in 2016 for their recycling project, in which they collected 15,000 aluminium cans and used them to construct a windmill which powers the lights in the adjacent greenhouse.

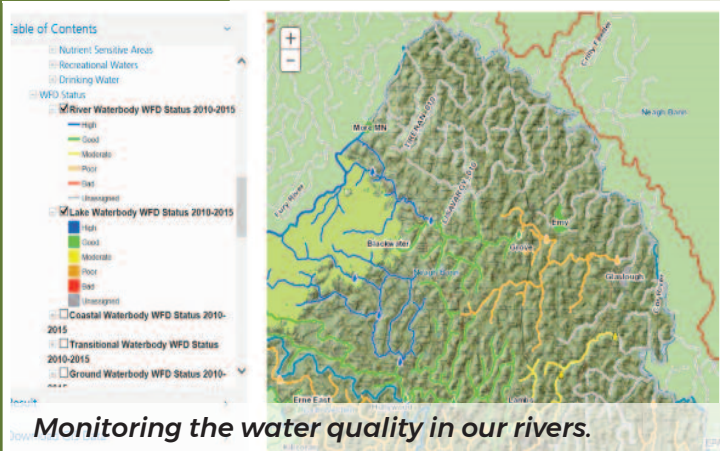
Glaslough Development Association, in partnership with Monaghan County Council, has just received approval from the Sustainable Energy Association of Ireland's



NATURAL ENVIRONMENT ...contd



Primary school children walk to school.



Monitoring the water quality in our rivers.

Better Energy Communities programme to carry out 80 home energy audits, then follow these up with the installation of heating controls and energy upgrade works to the homes.

Glaslough Tidy Towns won the Waste Prevention Award in the National Tidy Towns competition in 2015, and the Sustainable Development Award in 2011. They are recognised as community innovators at national level, and featured on an RTE television programme on waste prevention in September 2016.

The local primary school, St. Mary's, was the first school in Co. Monaghan to join the Green Schools initiative, and today it continues to lead the way, having five Flags under its belt - more than any other school in the county.

As well as recycling and conserving resources, the local schoolchildren take a 'walking bus' from the village centre out to the school, which lies 1km outside the village.

WATER QUALITY

Water quality is the biggest challenge facing the natural environment in Glaslough. The village lies downstream from the Sliabh Beagh Special Protection Area, which hosts one of Ireland's 21 High Status water bodies.

While water quality within Sliabh Beagh

and immediately downstream from it is classified as 'high', by the time the water reaches Glaslough, less than 15km later, it has deteriorated to 'poor'.

The main source of pollution of water is run-off from over-fertilisation of agricultural land due to intensive agricultural production on Co. Monaghan's dense, poorly drained soils.

We have one of the first River Trusts established in Ireland, the River Blackwater Catchment Trust (RBCT) who are raising awareness of the importance of protecting water quality and fish habitats in the area.

The RBCT is currently working with The Local Authorities Water & Communities Organisation (LAWCO) to develop training programmes for farmers in the Glaslough area to encourage and enable them to change their practices.

The Glaslough/Tyholland Group Water Scheme provides drinking water to the Glaslough community that is sourced from nearby Emy Lake, which is supplied by rivers flowing from the Sliabh Beagh Special Protection Area (SPA).

Through a project led by Dundalk Institute of Technology called "Our Community, Our Waters", both Monaghan County Council and the Glaslough/Tyholland GWS are raising public awareness of what each person can do to protect our water sources, and a programme is already underway.

BUILT ENVIRONMENT



The Leslie Monument.

The people of Glaslough are very proud of their built heritage, and you will see this in the care which is given to the buildings and streets by their owners and by the community in general.

Some of the structures you will visit are:

- The Coach House Pub was the commercial heart of the village, incorporating a village shop and petrol station.

The interior of the bar still retains much of its original character and was recently voted Ulster Pub of the Year at the Irish Restaurant Awards 2017.

- The Leslie Monument on the main street was erected by tenants of the Leslie estate in honour of Charles Powell Leslie MP 1821-1871, a progressive landlord who instigated works and famine relief projects during this period, saving the lives of many local people.

- Trinity House on Barrack Hill was the location of the old police station.

- There is an old-fashioned water pump, complete with a lion's head nearby, built in 1841 as part of the first village water scheme. The Leslie estate provided all the water for the village until as recently as the 1980's.

- The limestone 'famine walls' of the estate serve to provide a visual link throughout the village and you will find echoes of the walls in the stonework of the buildings, piers, and flower beds.

- You will also see reminders of Glaslough's past, including its links with the Great Northern Railway.

The plans for the signal box for the station were recently found, and a replica box and gates were rebuilt by the Tidy Towns committee.

HOUSING

There are two local authority housing schemes in the village, providing housing for low income families.

Monaghan County Council modified their usual housing design, taking steps to ensure the houses blend into the character of the village.

OLD & NEW

The Village Green housing development was built in 2006, within the walls of the Leslie estate.



The Coach House Pub - voted Ulster Pub of the Year at the Irish Restaurant Awards 2017.

BUILT ENVIRONMENT...contd



Village Green houses within the Leslie estate.



The Hunting Lodge.

The sale of the houses financed the refurbishment of the castle, and other works on the estate, including the construction of the equestrian centre and a self-catering accommodation complex at the rear of the estate.

The houses were designed and built in keeping with the original architecture of the village and estate, with slate roofs, sliding sash windows, open fires, cut limestone and salvaged brick.

The Hunting Lodge inside the main entrance to the estate is an example of how a heritage building can be renovated to fit a modern purpose.

What was once a stone stable yard has been developed into a hotel and restaurant, connecting into the lodge and opening onto a central courtyard.

The complex also includes a Victorian spa, and overlooks a modern equestrian centre, the dimensions for which were decided entirely by the position of the trees surrounding the property – Sammy Leslie was adamant that the trees were not to be lost!

STREETSCAPE & FURNITURE

Glaslough is a period village, and this is reflected in the streetscaping. Cabling has been undergrounded, to retain the illusion of an earlier period.

Litter bins, bollards, sign surrounds, etc.,

are finished in cast iron, and modern directional signs have been replaced with traditional cast-iron fingerpost signs.

The seating around the village is a replica of the benches from the railway station.

DERELICTION

Monaghan County Council has a Derelict Sites Register in place, and pursues resolutions to dereliction in conjunction with the owners and the community.

The community has taken responsibility for two properties where ownership is unclear, and maintains their exteriors in good condition whilst managing the rear of the properties for wildlife.

HERITAGE PROMOTION

An Audio Heritage Trail which takes visitors around the village has recently been developed.

This describes the buildings and their history, telling stories about the people who lived there, and even features interviews with a customs officer who worked on the border, and the son of the signal box operator who used to accompany his father to work as a special treat!

No phone coverage? You can still view the app in the county's smallest exhibition centre – the telephone kiosk in the centre of the village!

LANDSCAPE



Glaslough has very fertile agricultural land.



Hawthorn, a typical hedgerow plant.



Many of the hedgerows are over a century old.

Co. Monaghan is a very rural county, with over 70% of the population living outside of urban settlements. This is a much higher ratio than the national average, which is 39%.

The average size of a farm in Co. Monaghan is the second smallest in Ireland – 0.23km² compared to 0.35km² nationally. This is one of the reasons why you will see more houses in the countryside relative to other parts of Europe. It also explains why there is a much denser network of roads in the area.

DRUMLIN COUNTY

Glaslough lies in Ireland's drumlin belt. Drumlins are small, egg-shaped hills which are formed by glacial ice moving over unconsolidated ground moraine. The soil around Glaslough is deep and fertile, making it the best agricultural land in the county.

Underneath the topsoil, however, lies dense gley which is slow to drain. The water table in the area is high, making the area sensitive to pollution.

ARCHAEOLOGY

Glaslough is overlooked by Drum Beanachair, a prominent hill fort which was once a stronghold of the McKenna and McMahan clans.

The oldest graveyard in the county lies just

outside Glaslough at Donagh. It dates to the 5th Century BC, and features the Donagh Cross. A project is underway at present to record the graveyard.

The work will include an archaeological reconstruction drawing which will show how it would have looked in the 13th Century.

The project is being funded by the Heritage Council.

HEDGEROWS - IRELAND'S LINEAR WOODLANDS

Co. Monaghan's hedgerows were introduced into the landscape by the various English landlords during the 1800's as a way of creating boundaries between their tenants' holdings.

Many of our hedgerows are over a hundred years old, and provide corridors which enable wildlife to move freely around the countryside.

Species found in a hedgerow will include blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), spindle (*Euonymus europaeus*), guelder rose (*Viburnum opulus*), crab apple (*Mauls sp.*), alder (*Alnus sp.*) ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), and birch (*Betula alba*).

In May, the hedges turn white with hawthorn blossom, making patchwork patterns across the drumlins.

GREEN SPACES



Glaslough Villa football grounds.



One of the approach roads to Glaslough village.

OPEN SPACES

It is traditional in estate villages to lay the housing out to face a central 'green'.

These formal spaces create a sense of calm and provide places for the community to come together to play, hold parties, even festivals. Some of Glaslough's 'greens' are kept as formal lawns. Others are managed for wildlife.

VERGES

The wide grass verges leading into, and throughout, the village are maintained neatly throughout the year by local volunteers. Near the roadside, verges are mowed, but as they graduate back towards the hedge, the verges are allowed to grow, providing cover and food for wildlife and pollinators.

COMMUNITY PARKS

The Community Garden was constructed in 2016 and features many recycled elements. Its previous life was as a hard surfaced yard/car park.

The Biodiversity Garden at Oakland Community Centre is buzzing with insect activity and full of information about plants, insects and the natural world. Information boards are presented in English and in Irish, and the illustrations are taken from a very old school textbook.

The Community Allotments were created

in 2014 as part of a local initiative around food waste and sustainable food production. With help from a local Grow It Yourself group, and a plot of land donated by the Castle Leslie estate, the Tidy Towns group developed 20 raised beds, and made them available to local people and groups to grow their own vegetables, fruit, and flowers. Training has also been provided in how to grow and cook food. The most recent additions to the allotments have been a bee hive and an edible forest.

SPORTS & RECREATION

The community of Glaslough were the first in Co. Monaghan to build their own children's playground. The site for the playground was provided by Desmond Leslie in the village centre, and the local community raised funding to build a tennis court and playground. The playground is maintained and insured by Monaghan County Council, saving the community many thousands of euro each year.

The main type of football played in rural Ireland is Gaelic football so Glaslough Villa Football Club is one of only a handful (3) of community soccer clubs in Co. Monaghan. The club runs teams from underage up to senior level, and runs summer camps which aim to improve the skills of their younger players. Club members also participate in numerous charity events.

GREEN SPACES...contd



The Community Centre and playground.



Horse riders on Castle Leslie Estate.



Glennan Church and graveyard.

There are two large equestrian centres and several smaller livery stables in the area. By far the best known facility is Castle Leslie. The 1,000 acres of open parkland on the Castle Leslie estate brings horse lovers from all around the world to enjoy the tracks and trails which wind through the estate.

COMMUNITY BUILDINGS

The hub of community life in Glaslough is Oakland Community Centre. The facility was built in 1981. The centre has a main hall which is suitable for both indoor sports and community gatherings or concerts. There are several meeting rooms and a commercial kitchen.

The community centre's latest addition is another first for the county – a community library.

CHURCHES

There are three churches serving the village, one Catholic, one Church of Ireland and one Presbyterian.

GRAVEYARDS

There are three graveyards in use which serve the village. A further three graveyards are maintained but are no longer open for burials.

One of these is the ancient graveyard at Donagh, which is undergoing an archaeological survey at present.

MAINTENANCE

Routine mowing of the open spaces and graveyards of Glaslough is done by a team of workers under Donagh Community Employment scheme. Maintenance of flower beds, green spaces, etc., is carried out by volunteers.

Daily litter-picking patrols are carried out by a team of volunteers throughout the year. Volunteer leaders take responsibility for overseeing each of the 15 'zones' in the village, as laid out in the Tidy Towns committee's Litter Management Plan.

The Tidy Towns committee has its own polytunnel, which is located at St Mary's National School at the edge of the village. Here, they nurture seedlings which are planted throughout the village after the last frost has passed in late spring. The polytunnel is also used as a teaching resource for the school.

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

The community of Glaslough is very active. In 2012, the 12 community organizations in the village came together to commission a review of the needs of the area and develop a strategic plan to guide each organization in how it can help to develop the overall community. The document provides a framework into which all the projects fit, showing how each contributes to making Glaslough a better place to live, and how

GREEN SPACES...contd



One of the many volunteers in the greenhouse.



Glaslough placed 2nd in the All-Ireland Pride of Place Awards 2011.



Painting the cart - a feature in the Coach Garden.



The replica station signal box.

each promotes the values the community wishes to pass on to the next generation.

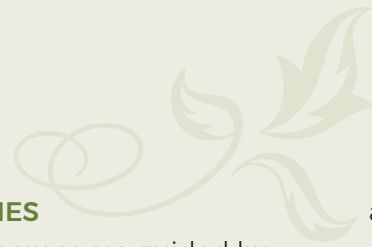
To ensure that the strategic vision is not lost, the website www.glasloughlife.ie has been set up. Everything which is happening at a strategic level links back to this site.

To motivate the many volunteers and reward them for the time and effort they give to the community, the Tidy Towns committee hosts the Beautiful Glaslough Awards each August. A total of 14 prizes

across a range of categories are given out at the end of a night of food and entertainment.

In recognition of the special community spirit which exists in Glaslough, Monaghan County Council nominated the community to represent the county in the All-Ireland Pride of Place competition in 2011. Against communities from all over Ireland, Glaslough was placed 2nd, demonstrating just how special this community is.

PLANTING



A flash of spring colour from the daffodils.



Formal planting on one of the village greens.



A sea of bluebells throughout the woodlands.

UNDERLYING POLICIES

The planting schemes are guided by the National Biodiversity Centre's All-Ireland Pollinator Plan, and by a desire to echo the traditional Victorian-era planting scheme of the Castle Leslie estate throughout the village so no pesticides are used.

Irish-origin open-source seed mixes are used, and local seeds are collected, to preserve the genetics of local plants and trees.

GREENSCAPING PLAN

A greenscaping plan was prepared for the Tidy Towns group in 2016 by Barry Kavanagh, whose wildlife garden won Best in Show at the National Garden Competition at the Bloom festival in 2014. The plan focuses on native plants and supporting pollinators.

FORMAL PLANTING

A visit to Glaslough in spring reveals displays of daffodils (*narcissus*) along the roadside margins. Everyone likes to see a little 'colour', so you will find a few violas (*Violaceae*) and pansies (*Viola tricolor var. Hortensis*) in the pots in the village centre in spring, replaced by begonias in summer. These are the only examples of annuals and non-native plants you will find in the village. The remainder of the planting is permanent

and native.

Two pollinator projects have been undertaken in 2017: a verge of perennial plants has been created along the local authority housing development on the Caledon road, and rose beds have been created on the south-facing banks towards the rear of the same development.

NATURAL PLANTING

The woodlands on the Leslie estate are where the real spectacle is to be found in spring, starting in January when the snowdrops (*Galanthus*) lift their heads above the frost. They are followed by carpets of wild garlic (*Allium ursum*) scenting the air during April, before giving way to seas of bluebells (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) in May. Wood anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*) and forget-me-nots (*Myosotis*) are also a treat as the season progresses towards summer, before the foxgloves (*Digitalis*) take over in July.

The natural planting scheme of the woodlands has been echoed in the village planting scheme. You will find foxgloves (*Digitalis*) around the Horse Pond, cow parsley (*Anthriscus sylvestris*) being encouraged to grow in the hedges, and wonderful whitethorn hedges everywhere. Ivy (*Hedera helix*), a crucial late autumn source of nectar for bees, grows abundantly on the famine walls.

PLANTING ..contd



The perennial planting along the roadside.



The Upcycle Garden.



The native planting scheme in the Coach Garden.

The planting in the community garden is selected specifically with pollinators in mind. The garden features old rose varieties, geraniums (*Pelargonium*), catmint (*Nepeta*), lavenders (*Lavandula*), old daisies and sedums and absolutely no annuals.

In Glaslough, even the plants volunteer! In the Upcycle Garden beside the community centre, you will find a stock of comfrey (*Symphytum*), which is used to make plant feed. The dead nettles (*Lamium purpureum*) growing in the Butterfly

Garden are harvested to make a feed for the vegetables.

One of the delights for visitors to Glaslough is the many trees which feature throughout the village and around the estate. The community is very aware of their good fortune, and have developed an award-winning Tree Trail to ensure that they get to enjoy these wonderful trees to the full. The trail won the Tree Council of Ireland award in the National Tidy Towns competition in 2013.



One of the old rose varieties flourishing in the Coach Garden.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION



One of the seven rainwater harvesting points around the village.



One of the areas left uncut for wildlife.

All of our planning is done in order to build two things in Glaslough:

- Firstly, we are planning the village of the future – the kind of place we wish to hand on to our children.

- Secondly, we are planning the future communities of Glaslough; we are building the people of the future, and passing on the values which we wish them to have, so that they will continue to care for our village.

You will notice a lot of information points around the village. These play an important part in educating people about the importance of the natural world, and how the way we live affects it.

Our Biodiversity Garden, Biodiversity Trail and Butterfly Garden help to promote the concept of man's interdependence on the natural world.

Our work to promote pollinators helps to reinforce the message that we are reliant on nature in a very immediate way as the source of our food.

The community takes every opportunity to learn more about the world around them, and how they can improve it, and they are keen to pass their knowledge and passion on.

- In 2010, the Tidy Towns committee undertook training in habitat mapping, using the Fossit classification system. This provided them with the foundation for their highly successful biodiversity programme.

- The Biodiversity Trail, Tree Trail and Wildlife Trail brochures are full of facts which encourage the public to learn more, and provide QR codes to websites which provide much more information.

- 'Bees, Butterflies & Birds' is a year-round programme of activity, aimed at promoting the importance of these creatures to children. Children from St Mary's National School participated in a Junior Pollinator Plan workshop on 3rd May 2017, funded by Monaghan County Council. All in all, 150 children participated in the Glaslough Tidy Towns annual Schools Poster Competition, where the theme was 'the 3B's'

The community is also very concerned about Sustainable Resource Use. Glaslough was the first community in Co. Monaghan to offer a site to the County Council for a village bring bank. Four one-hour Stop Food Waste workshops were held in March and April 2017. As part of their drive to reduce the amount of waste being created, the Tidy Towns group has teamed up with Glaslough Harriers athletics club, and with funding from Monaghan County Council have purchased re-usable water bottles.

The Development Group opened the county's first community library in the Oakland Community Centre in February, providing an outlet for previously read books to be recycled around the community whilst at the same time supporting low

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION...contd



St Mary's are the only school in Ireland to have bring banks INSIDE their school grounds.



St Mary's National School insect hotel.



Children's water workshop.

income families and promoting the value of reading.

St Mary's National School is the only school in Ireland to have a bring bank located within the school grounds. In fact, it has two, plus a special bicycle to crush the cans before they get sent off for recycling. The school even earns a little income from their enterprise. In 2016, the children collected over 15,000 aluminium cans to create a windmill which powers the lights for the school's greenhouse, which is made from plastic bottles. The windmill won the CanIt! Award in the National Tidy Towns competition in 2016.

The Glaslough Tidy Towns Facebook page not only features all kinds of articles on sustainable development, waste prevention and biodiversity, it also promotes upcoming activities in the village.

The biggest environmental challenge

facing the Glaslough area is water quality, and the community has faced this by building partnerships with organizations which can help them to implement projects and programmes.

These include:

- Blackwater River Catchment Trust is working to address the condition of the waterways which feed into the Mountain Water river, removing invasive species and improving fish habitats, including the creation of spawning beds, pools, etc.

- A joint project between the Dundalk Institute of Technology and the National Federation of Group Water Schemes (which is based in Monaghan), called 'Communities and Waters' is running in Glaslough. It organises workshops with the local community and schools to highlight measures that can be taken to protect the quality of drinking water.



Some people are now growing their own food for the first time ever, thanks to the Community Allotments.

EFFORT & INVOLVEMENT



The whole community has been involved in preparing for Entente Florale.



Homeowners put in a great deal of effort.

Volunteering is a way of life in Glaslough. The Tidy Towns group is amongst the oldest in the country, and has been consistently performing at the highest level since it won the national title in 1978. Over 60 volunteers help out throughout the year, running fundraisers, promotional events, workshops, school activities, managing websites and social media pages, organizing Junior Tidy Towns, researching, scripting and laying out trails, negotiating with landowners, and doing all the backroom work in addition to getting out and doing the physical on-the-ground projects, litter picks, flower planting, weeding, and watering.

The Oakland Community Centre was built by volunteers, and financed by local fundraising. The facilities are maintained and upgraded by volunteers and fundraising, with some grant assistance from Monaghan County Council. A team of volunteers pull together to cater for large events, such as the handover ceremony of the Entente Florale flag, held in March.

The Glaslough Harriers athletics club recently celebrated 75 years. For most of those years, they didn't even have a running track - they ran the roads around the village, from which they managed to consistently produce athletes of a national and international standard. In recent times, with the focus on health and wellbeing, the

Harriers have expanded their repertoire to cater for the couch potato, with their Operation Glasformation initiative.

This annual 12-week programme combines talks on healthy eating with fitness coaching and finishes with a 5km walk/run, which attracts over 1,000 participants each year.

The young people of the village are also very engaged in the development of their area. There is a very active Junior Tidy Towns group and there is a Teen Tidy Towns group too.

The local businesses support the work of the community in many ways. They provide sponsorship for events, donate cash towards the cost of running the Tidy Towns programme. The businesses also collaborate to produce a guide to the village, which is an essential resource for the many Castle Leslie guests who venture out to explore the wider area.

The community has built close links with Monaghan County Council's Environment section, collaborating to host workshops on composting, recycling, food waste, water conservation, biodiversity, and grow-it-yourself amongst others.

The Council also runs Eco-camps for children during Easter and summer school holidays, and provides funding to the Tidy Towns and Development Association for a number of local projects.



One of Ireland's newest national brands.

TOURISM & LEISURE

Co. Monaghan is one of Ireland's up-and-coming tourist destinations. This is due in no small part to Castle Leslie, which is putting the county firmly on the world map as a destination of excellence for outdoor activities and a beautiful natural landscape.

Our offering is built around intimacy, getting to know a place and its people, and getting really close to the world around you.

SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

Thanks to the Integrated Constructed Wetlands, the low density farming practices enabled by the switch from intensive agricultural production to equestrian tourism, the promotion of biodiversity awareness locally, and the focus on sustainable resource use, the tourism product in Glaslough is growing in an environmentally sustainable way.

The community, business sector, and Council are all committed to ensuring it will continue to do so, and the branding of the area fits well with nature and the 'slow tourism' product offering.

TOURIST ROUTES & SIGNAGE

Glaslough and Co. Monaghan are part of Ireland's Ancient East, a new national brand which is still bedding in. The village and Castle Leslie are flagship offerings for the region.

An Ireland's Ancient East visitor attraction sign will be installed in the village in the coming months. This is a recognition of its importance as a destination point for international visitors.

Visitor information points are located at the centre of the village, in the Diamond. The start points for the three wildlife walking trails are also here – Hoey's Tree Trail, the Audio Heritage Trail and the Wildlife Trail.

The Audio Heritage Trail tells the compelling story of this beautiful village and encourages visitors to download the **One Village, Two Voices** app and explore the area further.

FOR CYCLISTS

The Blackwater Cycle Trail uses the quiet roads linking the three villages of Glaslough, Caledon and Tynan to create a heritage trail which tells of the history of the three estates which founded these villages.

The cycle trail links into a longer Ulster Canal Cycle Trail, which is the only Sustrans-accredited cycle trail in the Republic of Ireland. It is marketed throughout the UK.

FOR WALKERS

The network of paths and tracks on the Leslie estate are a joy for walkers. The community is also working with Monaghan County Council to bring the old railway line



Glaslough is part of the Ulster Canal Cycle Trail.

TOURISM & LEISURE ...contd



Tourist information on the Audio Heritage Trail.

back into use as a greenway, connecting into the Ulster Canal Greenway which is currently being constructed along the Monaghan to Armagh road and which will pass within 2km of the village. This will create a looped route, offering a cross-border 15km loop.

FOR FOODIES

A food itinerary for North Monaghan has been developed and highlights the culinary delights in this area.

Glaslough features very strongly in the itinerary and visitors are encouraged to sample the artisan chocolates made by Trish Murphy-Thom from the Glaslough Chocolate company, to have afternoon tea in Castle Leslie or a meal in the 2 AA Rosette award-winning Snaffles Restaurant and Conor's Bar, both located in the Hunting Lodge on the Leslie estate.

FOR EQUESTRIANS

Glaslough is a horse lover's paradise, with two equestrian centres to choose from.

Castle Leslie's services focus on the vacation market, whereas Cloncaw Equestrian Centre caters for those wishing to learn to ride, and holds regular competitions.

The two venues co-operate on projects regularly, and local riders support events held at both.

FESTIVALS & EVENTS

Every December, the Oakland Community Centre gets a nasty outbreak of elves, when the **Winter Wonderland** comes to Glaslough.

This is a community-run initiative, which is put together in response to the pressure put on families to take their children to the very expensive commercial 'Santa Experience' days.

One of the ways that the community raises funds is by appointing a Mayor of Glaslough.

Local people compete for the honour of the title. The person who raises the highest sum of money by the end of the campaign period is declared Mayor.

The Park After Dark is a night-time community festival. It provides a mix of family entertainment, which gives way later in the evening to music and dancing.

Glaslough Fete maintains a tradition started by the Leslie family many years ago, when people travelled from as far away as Belfast by train to attend the annual garden party on the lawn at the Castle, hosted by the family to raise funds for local charities.

Glaslough Harriers Annual Road Race is one of the highlights of the sporting year in the village, attracting approximately 1,500 participants across a range of age categories and fitness levels.

TOURISM & LEISURE ...contd



Glaslough Chocolate shop.



Glaslough's little hills pose a unique challenge to the horse and rider.

The highlights of the equestrian year are:

■ **Cloncaw Equestrian Centre's One Day Event**, which takes place in July.

Competitors travel from all over Ireland to test themselves against the rolling drumlins, which provide a unique test to horse and rider.

■ The British Horse Society holds its annual **Adult Summer Camp** at Castle Leslie. Members from all over Ireland arrive in Glaslough with their horses to stay for three days of riding instruction with top BHS tutors. The weekend concludes with the annual BHS Ball in the Castle.

ACCOMMODATION

The Leslie estate has various accommodation packages. Between Castle Leslie, the self-catering cottages scattered throughout the village and estate, and the hotel accommodation in the Hunting Lodge, the estate offers 161 rooms.

Occupancy is at capacity during peak season, when it is common to have between 1,500 and 1,800 people staying per week in Glaslough.

GLASLOUGH ONLINE

You will find Glaslough online at www.glasloughvillage.com. Here you will find information on the history of the village, and also be able to download the village tourism brochure.

For more information about community life in the village, and to access a copy of the community plan, visit www.glasloughlife.ie.

To find out more about Glaslough Tidy Towns, visit www.glasloughtidytowns.com.

Castle Leslie's website, www.castleleslie.com, includes information on the history of the Leslie family and the estate, and the restoration work. The history of each room in the Castle is written by Desmond Leslie, who also wrote a book about UFO's!

ARTISAN PRODUCERS

You will find locally produced food featuring proudly on the restaurant menus and in the shops. You will find books by local writers for sale in the Hunting Lodge. Stroll up to the Diamond and visit Glaslough Chocolates, or Joe and Joan Mallon's craft gallery. MK Woodcraft, which specializes in turning fallen trees into beautiful furniture, is located just outside the village.

The artists and craftspeople of Co. Monaghan collaborate during the month of December under the banner 'Made in Monaghan', pooling their collections into one pop-up shop in Monaghan town and taking turns to staff the shop.

As tourism numbers grow, they intend to open a seasonal shop in Glaslough village. This venture will be supported by Monaghan County Council.

COMMUNICATION



The flag handover ceremony, March 2017.



Volunteers in their Entente Florale t-shirts.



Musical fundraiser in local shopping centre.

The community of Glaslough has been spreading the Entente Florale message throughout Co. Monaghan.

We organized a flag handover ceremony in March, where Irish Entente Florale jury members Eamonn de Stafort and Dr. Christy Boylan presented the Entente Florale flag to the Mayors of Glaslough and Monaghan and representatives from Glaslough Junior Tidy Towns.

We also launched a 'Wildflower Meadow in a Box' initiative on the night, giving out packets of Irish-sourced wildflower seeds to 30 homeowners to take home and nurture for judging day.

Over 50 volunteers took to the very wet streets of Monaghan on St Patrick's Day

(17th March) to promote the Entente Florale message, bringing with them a model train made from aluminium cans collected by the children of the village. The train is now a permanent feature in the village.

Our volunteers have all been issued with Entente Florale-themed t-shirts, which they wear with pride at every opportunity, including to a recent musical fundraiser in Monaghan Shopping Centre.

A Facebook page has been set up to record activities during our year as Irish representatives in Entente Florale. Search Facebook for Entente Florale Glaslough 2017. We have been keeping a scrap book of local press coverage, and this will be available for inspection on adjudication day.



The model train - made from aluminium cans collected by the village children.



See you in Glaslough!



PRESIDENT'S PRIZE: BIODIVERSITY



The Coach Garden brought an area of waste ground back to life.



The Irish Hare thrives on the uneven grass cover provided by the horses.



Oakland Biodiversity Garden.

Glaslough's biodiversity support strategy is simple:

1. Minimize the obstacles that the village puts in the way of wildlife passing through and create habitat to support as many pollinators as possible

2. Promote awareness amongst our citizens of what they can do to help support wildlife and promote biodiversity

The main documents guiding the biodiversity work in Glaslough are the National Pollinator Plan for Local Authorities and the Greenscaping Plan for Glaslough, commissioned by Glaslough Tidy Towns in 2016.

In 2010, Monaghan County Council organized training for the Tidy Towns in creating a Habitat Map, using the Fossit classification system. This helped to identify the prime wildlife corridors through the village, where there were breaks in cover and in tree lines - this is especially important for bats - and where there was habitat which could be improved.

Once the habitats were identified, work began on managing and improving the habitats, creating corridors, getting the community involved in the work and raising awareness. Highlights include:

- construction of the Oakland Biodiversity Garden in 2011
- construction of the Wildlife Trail & brochure in 2012

- construction of the biodiversity garden at St Mary's National School in 2012
- construction of Hoey's Tree Trail in 2013
- construction of the Butterfly Garden in 2014
- 'Bee is for Biodiversity' promotional campaign in 2015/6
- construction of the Coach Garden in 2016 on a patch of waste ground
- planting of an Edible Forest at the Community Allotments in 2016
- planting of lavender and rose beds in the village in 2017
- planting of perennial beds along Caledon road in 2017
- 3B's schools campaign in 2017
- Wildflower meadow in a box campaign in spring 2017
- Sunflower seed bomb project with Junior Tidy Towns throughout 2017
- Seed collection workshops every autumn
- Native seeds potted in the community polytunnel and planted around the village every year

The newest community garden in the village, the Coach Garden, is planted entirely with old varieties of flowers, with pollinators in mind, and brings what was once a hard-surfaced car park back to life.

The native planting scheme has been extended throughout the village, with perennial beds created along the Caledon



Wild flower planting at the Horse Pond.



The 3B's campaign - birds, bees and butterflies.



The Integrated Constructed Wetlands.

road and foxgloves and other wild plants introduced at the Horse Pond.

The owners of properties along Main St. have given permission to Tidy Towns to manage their backlands for wildlife, and you will find these overgrown with cleavers (*Galium aparine*), cow parsley (*Anthriscus sylvestris*) and other shade-loving plants, providing cover for small mammals.

Dead wood is left in situ, providing habitat for insects. Thought has been given to seasonal planting to support bumblebees, who are vulnerable to a long spell of wet weather in early spring or late autumn. Ivy (*Hedera*) in particular is cherished as a valuable late source of nectar, as well as providing nesting sites and cover.

St Mary's National School plays a very important role in leading many of our biodiversity projects. The children of Glaslough won a National Tidy Towns award for their work in 2016.

This year the children are involved in a 3B's campaign - birds, bees and butterflies - and a series of workshops, eco camps and fun activities are planned to keep them occupied throughout the summer months.

INTEGRATED CONSTRUCTED WETLANDS

The flagship project in the village for biodiversity is the Integrated Constructed Wetlands, which has been in operation since 2008.

It is the product of collaboration between Monaghan County Council, the Castle

Leslie estate, the Department of the Environment Heritage & Local Government (now the Dept of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government) and the University of Edinburgh.

The amenity has a capacity of 1,750 persons equivalent, which it processes through five sequential ponds, which are planted with a variety of reeds and water-loving plants.

The ponds are overlooked by mature woodlands on two sides and bordered by a stream on a third. A wide grass margin is left around each pond, and the sides of the ponds are sloped, so that wildlife can enter with ease.

Whilst the purpose of the wetlands is to process the waste water from the village and the estate, the project partners have, from the outset, been aware of the importance of the amenity as a habitat for wildlife.

Since it was first developed, a series of studies has been undertaken to track the maturation of the habitat, recording how each pond has been populated, and by what species.

The University of Edinburgh has published papers recording the amenity's progress, which is proving to function excellently both as an ecosystem and as a way to treat waste water.

It is so good at treating the water that the quality of water emerging from the last pond is higher than the quality of water upstream of the amenity!