

Lacken Tidy Village Group

The Lacken Tidy Village Group was set up in 2017 with the aim of developing and enhancing the natural beauty of this little hamlet in West Wicklow in an environmentally friendly way. They also wanted to link in with the rich heritage of the area going back to pre Christian times. The group entered the Tidy Towns in 2018 scoring 220 points and 2019 scored 240 points, the third biggest increase in the country. The group consisting of 8 members and 20 volunteers have undertaken a variety of initiatives, some of which are outlined below. The group meet regularly between March - October. The Junior Tidy Village Group together with the local Scout Group partake in regular litter / clean up of the village. They also maintain the beach at Lacken and this year set up the Pure mile between the Community Centre and the top of the Gap road. The Tidy Village Group is a subcommittee of the Lacken Community Development Association aimed at refurbishing the old school now The Community Centre.



Mass Path:



The restoration of the old Mass path which was used in the past for people living in Blackrock / Lugnagun to commute over the hill for Mass, School or to shop in Tommy Richardson's shop. Work began in 2018 with the removal of gorse and rebuilding the old stone walls. It is an ongoing project requiring the co-operation of local landowners, Coillte and Wicklow County Council. When completed hopefully in 2021, it will provide locals and visitors to the area the opportunity to view the stunning landscape of the Blessington lakes and hills.

Interpretative Panel:



In the Spring of 2020 an Interpretative panel was erected in the nook beside Tommy Richardson's shop outlining aspects of our local history beginning with the passage graves dating back to thousands of years, as evidenced by the existence of prehistoric burial sites, bullauns, ring forts and passage graves. Alfie Zellar and Diana Gallagher from; the committee supplied the information and Conor Hipwell of Wicklow Council liaised with the artist who created an accurate and impressive illustration of the many aspects of history down through the centuries.

Granite Bench:



In 2019 , local councillor Gerry O Neill donated a granite bench which is located on the road leading down to Lacken Church. It bears the inscription "Sui síos agus inis séal dom". Not only does it afford the weary walker the chance to rest, but also to share some aspect of their lives with a fellow traveller.

Conservation and Landscaping:



The Tidy Village Group have undertaken a wide variety of projects aimed at developing green spaces to promote biodiversity in a visually appealing manner. Some of the projects included the following;

- ❖ Restoration of old stone walls using local stone for walling.
- ❖ Creating an area called "The Nook"
- ❖ Planting redcurrant hedging along the entrance to the village.
- ❖ Designing and creating planter beds and herbaceous borders for year long interest.
- ❖ Displaying colourful window / planter boxes in the old school / Community Centre and at strategic points in the village.
- ❖ Planting seasonal bulbs and flowers in an old boat rescued from the lakeshore.

❖ *Minimal verge cutting policy to maintain a habitat for wildlife and flowers.*

Community Library : A Community library was built in March 2020, where the local community can avail of books that were enjoyed by other readers. This a welcome initiative at a time when many people are confined to their homes due to Covid 19.

Sean Cahill designed and built the library and set it on a wall of stone. Sean also built the planter and window boxes which provide a colourful display in the summer months.

