

Tell us a RIVER story...

We have been collecting River Suir stories and memories since the Suir River Cafe in July. The hand written accounts are a fantastic narrative of the River and of people's association with it.

If you would like to contribute a story or a memory to our growing collection please post it to : Labhaoise McKenna, Heritage Officer, South Tipp Co Co, County Hall, Clonmel. We hope to undertake some kind of art project with the collection. It seems that the stories have really reconnected people with their place. The more the merrier!

Suir River Café



A place and time to celebrate and create a shared vision for the River Suir

Suir River Café was a collaborative project where we set up a cafe for 10 days as part of the local Clonmel Junction Festival during July 2011. The café acted as a focal point and for all with an interest in the Suir River: the public, local authorities and a diverse range of groups to engage and share their various interests in the river: fishing, boating, river-related sports and recreation, nature appreciation, conservation and restoration, heritage, history and physical planning.

Suir River Café was created as a place to celebrate the river in all its forms and provide a space for all to renew their connection to the river. We facilitated a place where people could meet, be informed and exchange their ideas, stories and concerns. People were engaged by means of sharing and writing their own personal recollections of river stories, memories, events and inspirations. These were recorded by making use of physical maps using post-its, coloured strings and pins to locate and connect events and ideas along the river

evolved to provide a clearer vision of what we would like the river to be and what we could see it become.



We also created a river-inspired installation with water, greenery and sounds around which we invited people to freely express their impressions, wishes and intents for the river. We had fun with various arts - including making of dreamboats, meditative painting on river stones, raw river clay sculpting, fishy mobiles. We reconnected to river crafts and lore through learning of boats and boating, different ways of catching fish and making nets, willow basket and river rush weaving workshops. We learned about life in the river and on the river banks including threats to the biodiversity of life. We hosted a celebratory event of song, literature and poetry with Michael Coady and Compass Point.

The café model was surprisingly successful in helping to re-establish a stronger river culture and the creation of a renewed platform for people and groups who are friends of the river to continue to share their passion and vision and work together to devise projects and ways of utilising the river and realising its full potential as a major amenity and source of life and inspiration for all.



corridor; and by means of a river timeline - all of which

Lyn Mather, Artist in Residence, Suir River Cafe Team
www.southtipperheritage.ie/riversuir

Forthcoming Events

Suir River Seminar

Carrick-on-Suir

Tuesday 31st January 2012

Contact: Margo Hayes, 051-642109
margo.hayes@southtippcoco.ie

Landscapes of the River Suir Video

South Tipperary County Museum
Opening hours:

Tuesday to Saturday: 10am to 5pm.
Occasionally closed lunchtime. Please check:

museum@southtippcoco.ie
0526134552

Contacts

For further information on River Suir projects:

www.southtipperheritage.ie/riversuir

<http://podcasting.ie/riversuir>

www.waterways-forward.eu

If you would like to contribute an article for our newsletter, more info of River Suir projects or join the Suir People emailing list please forward your details to:

heritage@southtippcoco.ie

Our partners

SRN – Lead Partner – Netherlands

South Tipperary County Council – Ireland

Waterways Ireland – UK and Ireland

British Waterways – UK

Association Regio Water – Netherlands

County Administrative Board of Värmland – Sweden

Savonlinna Region Federation of Municipalities – Finland

Central Directorate for Water and Environment – Hungary

French Waterways – France

SIRGA – Spain

PWMC Vode Vojvodine Office for European Affairs – Serbia

Vidzeme Planning Region – Latvia

Municipality of Brzeg Dolny – Poland

There was a River Festival as part of the Clancy Brother Festival in June in Carrick-on-Suir with River walks, fun filled family events in Sean Healy Park and river activities- cot and duck races. For more info: www.clancybrothersfestival.org/

A new walking booklet 'Walk the Tipperary 10' includes 2 river side walks. Have you done them yet?

www.discoverireland.ie/thetipperary10

A big thanks to John Flynn and Alan Cullagh from Inland Fisheries Ireland; Orla Kennedy, Ralph O'Callaghan, Shay Hurley; the County Museum and all those who gave their time and resources to the Suir River Cafe.

The contents of this Newsletter reflect the author's views and the Managing Authority is not liable for any use that may be made of the information contained in it.

News + info



Bee 4 Biodiversity

in Denis Bourke Park

Biodiversity is the spice of life in Clonmel's riverside park

Denis Burke Park is a long narrow park of mature trees that skirts the banks of the River Suir in Clonmel. Due to flood relief works being carried out, the park was temporarily closed in order to widen the river bed and to erect flood relief walls. The rationale for this community art project was to draw more people into the park and make them more aware of the river wildlife.

Colourful tiled wildlife panels have been installed at the new entrance to the park. The undulating design of the panels echos the flow of the river. There are swans, owls, dippers, kingfishers, herons, salmon, trout, badgers, dragonflies, yellow flag and bullrushes all set into the undulating blues and greens. The sole pig placed on one of the cloud tiles remembers Denis Burke who set up a Bacon factory in Clonmel and who had donated the park to the local Council for the use of the people of the town.

Another part of the project involved running workshops with local schools and with community groups in the River

Cafe during Junction Festival, during Heritage Week and in various locations such as Clonmel Swimming Pool. There are many beautiful specimen trees in the park and these became the dominant theme in the workshops. The idea was to get as many people as possible to press a leaf into clay and when all these leaves are glazed and fired they would be placed in clusters on the inside wall of the park. The next step will be the celebration of the park reopening when all the leaf makers will get a chance to see the leaves installed and to see if they can recognise their own pieces.



Dóirín Saurus, Local ceramic Artist

This project was funded under South Tipp Biodiversity Plan from the Biodiversity Fund administered by The Heritage Council

Interactive River Suir website goes LIVE!

The interactive Suir River map based site is up and running and you can search your area under 4 simple headings: GO, WORK, PLAY and LIVE!

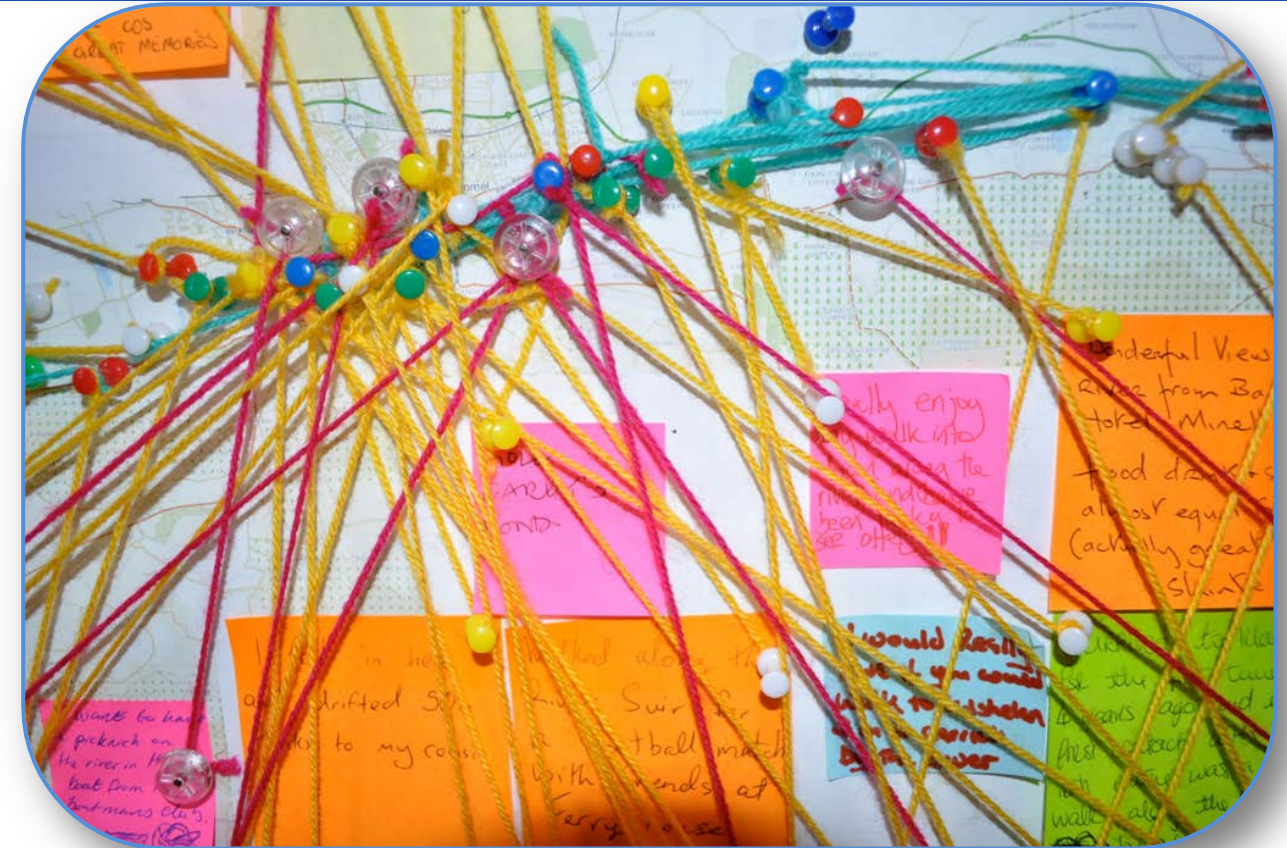
Data collected in the heritage surveying of the River Suir has been uploaded into an easily accessible format. 6 Pilot areas have been included in 2011 and it is hoped to further develop this in 2012.

Sites so far include:

Carrick-on-Suir – Industrial heritage, boating, tow path, town walls etc **Kilsheelan** – Walking, weirs, archaeology, fishing etc; **Clonmel** - Wildlife, Denis Bourke Park, quays, Suir Island etc **Glenbawn** –Woodland, Marlfield, Sandybanks etc; **Cahir** - Castle, architecture, bridges, ruins and railways etc; **Golden** – Athassel, bridges, fords, defences, mills and fish ponds.

See <http://podcasting.ie/riversuir>

This project was funded by South Tipperary County Council and the Heritage Council.



River Suir Seminar

A River Suir Showcase is set for Tuesday 31st January to kick-start our river activities in 2012.

The half day seminar will be on from 3-7pm in the Carrig Hotel in Carrick-on-Suir. The event will be an opportunity for all those with an interest in the river to network and hear the different activities going on along the river.

There will be a variety of speakers from the Museum Sector, The Viking Woodstown Site, The Heritage Council, The Suir River Cafe, Heritage Boat Association and many more.

Everyone is welcome to attend and learn a little bit more about their river. Specialists from the various bodies with

responsibility for aspects of the river will also be there to answer any river related questions you have. We will have the South Tipperary Heritage Forum members such as NPWS, Inland Fisheries Ireland, Environment and Planning Sections of South Tipperary County Council, Department of Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht will be available for discussions.

We hope that the seminar will be an opportunity to showcase our 'shared vision' for the River Suir to date. The South Tipperary Development Company will be on hand to advise on potential funding streams for community projects. To book a space contact: Margo Hayes, 051-642109 margo.hayes@southtippcoco.ie