

A Guide to Community Life in

Co. Tipperary



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County Characteristics

Events

Volunteerism

ps Fundraising

Children

Arts

es

Cultural Activities

Sport Organisations

Irish Core Values

A Guide to Community Life in

Co. Tipperary

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South Tipperary Cultural Providers Group
Community Representatives

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Members of the Steering Committee have made every effort to ensure the accuracy of all the information contained in this booklet, "A Guide to Community Life in Co. Tipperary". However, they can accept no responsibility for any loss, injury or inconvenience suffered by any reader as a result of information or advice contained in this booklet.

Introduction

Our booklet “A Newcomer’s Guide to the South East” (published in 2007) introduced newcomers to aspects of everyday living, such as employment, social welfare services, healthcare, education and accommodation. It focused mainly on information around basic necessities of life, such as finding a job or place to live, availing of public services and learning about different laws in Ireland.

With this new booklet “A Guide to Community Life in Co. Tipperary”, we aim to introduce newcomers to various aspects of community life in the villages and towns of our county. This includes some insight into cultural values and norms, but more importantly information about typical community groups and activities. Ultimately, it is our hope that this booklet will enable newcomers – particularly those from different cultural backgrounds – to take part in activities and get involved in their new communities for the benefit of all.

Many Irish people see themselves and others as an important part of the community they live in, and believe that being active in community groups and taking part in activities improves one’s quality of life, offers support and provides a sense of belonging. For a newcomer, getting involved can contribute significantly to feeling more ‘at home’ in a host country. Many activities and community groups offer opportunities to meet others, either with a similar interest or from the same locality, improve English language skills, get answers to questions about everyday living and share experiences. It is true that one’s own culture and background greatly influences whether we like to be part of a group or prefer

life on our own. Some newcomers will not be familiar with the concept of an ‘active community life’. Others will be familiar with the concept, but will find its Irish manifestation very different from their home country. Whatever the case may be, this booklet tries to describe community life in County Tipperary in a manner that makes it more accessible for those who did not grow up here. In doing so, we will inadvertently touch on generalisation, stereotypes and clichés. Where this is the case, it is not meant in a judgmental way and is purely used to try and grasp Irish culture and its local variations.

During the course of this project it became clear that not only newcomers will benefit from the type of information that is contained in this booklet, but also people who have lived in County Tipperary for some time, if not all of their lives. Particularly the overview of common community organisations, cultural providers and recreational activities will be of interest to everyone. The steering committee would therefore like to invite *all* people in the county to use the booklet and get involved in their local communities.

This guide has been produced by members of a steering committee from various cultural and professional backgrounds. We acknowledge the help of every one of them, particularly of those members who have helped shape the booklet on a voluntary basis. We would also like to thank the Co. Tipperary Newcomer’s Guide Committee for funding the booklet.

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Core Values of Irish Culture

When coming to Ireland, newcomers will experience differences in manners, beliefs, customs, laws, language, art, religion, values, the concept of self, family organisation, social organisation, government, behaviour, etc. All of these elements combine to form Ireland's rich and unique culture. However, it is difficult, if not impossible, to actually define "Irish culture". Not only does it change rapidly, it offers many variations. It largely depends on the eye of the beholder how the Irish culture is perceived.

Features that are typically attributed to Irish people include:

- Generosity and hospitality
- Rural simplicity
- Informality
- Love of literature, music and theatre
- Irony and a sense of humour based on agile wit and a sharp tongue
- Poetic tendencies
- Warmth and charm
- Land, church and family as social anchors
- Nationalism
- Risk-taking, fight for beliefs, assertiveness

While many of these characteristics can be linked to Ireland's history, they are relative. Whether you agree that these features are "typically Irish" depends on your own cultural background as much as on your level of exposure to Irish culture. The more you engage with Irish people and the more you experience the various layers of culture (from the explicit such

as food, language, buildings, fashion and arts to implicit norms and values), the more comparisons you will draw to your own culture. This in turn will enable you to define your own picture of Irish culture.

It is usually the norms, values and behaviour of people that seem most strange. When your expectations are not met by people in a particular situation you might feel reminded that you are from a different cultural background. For example:

- If you are from a culture where people who do not know each other keep their distance, you may find it strange and perceive it as "typically Irish" that you are greeted by a stranger.
- If you are from a culture where language is direct and words are literal, you may wonder why someone in Ireland invites your opinion on the weather or enquires how you feel today, but doesn't pause to listen to your answer. Or you might take the phrase "You must come over some time" as an invitation and binding agreement, but find nobody is actually awaiting you.
- If you are from a culture that has a stringent concept of time and values punctuality, you may repeatedly find that you are the only person to show up at an event in Ireland on time while everyone else comes along twenty minutes later and nobody feels the need to apologise.

- You might wish to distance yourself from fellow countrymen and women while in Ireland and feel annoyed that Irish people insist on hooking you up with other people they know from your country.
- You might feel your personal space is being invaded when people call to your door to ask you to vote for them or to collect money for some charity.
- You might be amused by a sign on the road that tells you to stop for geese if they wish to cross the road.

Experiences such as these are subjective and will not be shared by every non-Irish person in Ireland. It may even be difficult for people from the same cultural background to agree on a set image of Ireland and its culture.

There are nevertheless features that everybody will agree are specific to Ireland. They are part of explicit culture and include the Irish language, national symbols and important holidays.

The Irish Language

The Irish language (Gaeilge) was the most commonly spoken language on the island of Ireland until the 19th century. Its decline since then has been attributed to the introduction under British rule of national schools, in which only English was taught, and to the Great Famine (1845-49) in Ireland, during which a very high number of Irish language speakers died.

The independent Irish state from 1922 launched a major push to promote the Irish language. Irish became a compulsory school subject, a requirement to be employed in the Civil Service and the official working language of the first few presidents.

Today, Irish is spoken fluently only by a small percentage of the population, mainly in the so called Gaeltacht areas (e.g. in Connemara in County Galway).

It also continues to exist alongside the English language in many official settings. Although it is used only occasionally in political speeches, all legislation and publications by government have to be published in both official languages, Irish and English.

Irish remains a school subject and is also still evident in the names of many public bodies, in dual language road signs and people's names.

A radio station (Raidió na Gaeltachta), a TV station (TG4) and newspapers in Irish (e.g. Foinse) offer support for the language through the media, but despite all efforts it is believed that Irish is in rapid decline.

Symbols of Ireland

National Flag

Ireland's national flag is known as the tricolour (three colours). It is based on the French tricolour and has three equal vertical bands of green, white and orange. The green symbolises the older majority Gaelic tradition of Ireland, made up mainly of Roman Catholics. The orange symbolises the mainly Protestant minority and the white signifies a living together of the two cultures in peace.

National Anthem

The national anthem of Ireland is called 'Amhrán na bhFiann' which means 'The Soldiers Song'. 'Amhrán na bhFiann' was written in 1907 by Peadar Kearney and became very popular among Irish republicans. It was not widely known until it was sung during the Easter Rising of 1916. The song became the official state anthem in 1926.

The Harp

The harp is exclusively an emblem of the State at home and abroad. It is always used by Government Departments and Offices. It also appears on all Irish coins. The harp is engraved on the seal of office of the President and it is also on the flag of the President of Ireland where it appears as a gold harp with silver strings on blue. The design of the harp is based on the 14th century 'Brian Boru Harp' which is preserved in the Museum of Trinity College, Dublin.



The Shamrock

The shamrock is a three-leafed clover and is a world-renowned symbol of Ireland. The shamrock was used by Saint Patrick (the patron saint of Ireland) to explain the Holy Trinity to the pre-Christian Irish. Shamrocks are said to bring good luck.



The Celtic Cross

The Celtic cross is a symbol of a cross with a circle surrounding the intersection of the cross. The cross often appears in different shapes, sizes, and in many different styles. It is said that



Saint Patrick was also the founder of the Celtic cross and that he used the 'sun cross' as an example to explain to pagans the importance of the cross. Today the Celtic cross is used for individual reasons like jewellery, T-shirts and tattoos, grave markers and head stones to name a few. Versions of the Celtic cross are also used by the Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA) and the Northern Ireland national football team.

National and Public Holidays

St. Patrick's Day

The National Holiday in Ireland is St. Patrick's Day. It is celebrated on the 17th of March every year – the date St. Patrick is said to have died. Saint Patrick (ca. AD 385-461) is the most commonly recognised of the patron saints of Ireland and is credited with bringing Christianity to Ireland. Although secular celebrations now exist, the holiday remains a religious observance in Ireland, for both the Church of Ireland and the Roman Catholic Church. As well as in Dublin which is home to the St. Patrick's Festival each year, many other Irish cities, towns and villages hold their own parades and festivals.

New Year's Celebrations

To celebrate the New Year in Ireland, people have house parties, dinner with friends, go to black tie balls or just head down to their local pub for a few pints. Only in some of the bigger towns are fireworks used for the New Year's Eve celebrations. New Year's Day marks the end of the long Christmas/New Year break with most people returning to work the next day.

Easter

Like many countries, Easter in Ireland is nowadays associated with Easter holidays, chocolate Easter eggs and Easter bunnies. On Good Friday, pubs are closed as a mark of respect. Some businesses also close in observance of Good Friday although this is not an official public holiday. Easter Sunday is a time for family and friends to get together, attend mass and have a roast dinner. As part of the Catholic tradition, for 40 days before Easter Sunday there is period called 'lent' where people abstain from something they like. Easter Monday is a Bank Holiday in Ireland.

Halloween

Halloween is said to have originated in Ireland around 100 AD. Back then, Halloween was a pagan festival celebrated by the Celts of Ireland who called it 'Samhain', an old Irish word meaning the 'end of Summer'. They believed that on the eve of Samhain, the dead spirits would revisit the mortal world, so huge bonfires were lit to keep away any evil spirits.

Halloween is known in Gaelic as 'Oíche Shamhna' and is celebrated on the 31st of October each year. Bonfires are still a part of the celebrations although they are now mostly illegal.

Other traditions on Halloween include playing games, eating barnbracks (a fruit bread with a ring baked inside it) and trick or treating (where children dress up in scary costumes and go house to house arriving home with bags of goodies). Jack O'Lanterns (carved out pumpkins with a scary face which is then lit up by placing a candle inside) are possibly the most recognised symbol of Halloween. While originating in an Irish legend, this tradition has been strongly influenced by American culture.

On Halloween, many cultural institutions offer events and activities centred around the customs and legends associated with the day.

Christmas

As in many other countries, Christmas is one of the most important holidays. Irish Christmas traditions are similar to those found in many western countries: the basic Christmas rituals, such as gift-giving, attending Mass, and decorating trees, are shared by most nations where Christmas is celebrated.

In Ireland, the weeks before Christmas Day (25 December) and St. Stephen's Day (26 December) are often used for parties and dinners for businesses, voluntary organisations and social groups. Christmas Day itself is mainly celebrated quietly with family. Traditional Christmas dinners in Ireland usually consist of turkey, ham, stuffing and cranberry sauce. The traditional dessert is usually composed of mince pies, trifle, Christmas pudding, and brandy or rum sauce.

Despite its commercialisation, for many Irish people, Christmas is still closely linked with church traditions which run over 12 days until the beginning of the New Year.

Bank Holidays

On Bank Holidays (first Mondays in May, June and August and last Monday in October), most businesses and all banks are closed. The Bank Holiday was originally initiated in the United States. It now serves as a day off for workers and many Irish people plan their annual leave around these days.

Hallmarks of Living in Co. Tipperary

Local Patriotism

Many Irish people view themselves and others in terms of what part of Ireland they are from. Such local patriotism usually finds its most vigorous expressions at county level and in connection with sporting events, particularly Gaelic games. The love for and devotion to one's county and the extent to which it is displayed by many Irish people is often perceived by newcomers as a peculiarity of Irish culture.

County Tipperary is no exception in this context. In fact, some might say it is home to the most patriotic people in Ireland!

Tipperary is one of 32 counties on the island of Ireland (26 of which are in the Republic of Ireland and six in Northern Ireland). It is in the Munster province, one of four provinces, into which Ireland is usually divided. It is named after the town of Tipperary, which is located in the south-west of the county.

The Irish name of Tipperary is Thiobraid Árann which means 'the well of Era', referring to the river Ara. It is the largest inland county of Ireland and ranks 6th in size among all 32 counties. It has a population of almost 150,000. In 1838, the county was divided by Government into two administrative areas – North Tipperary and South Tipperary – which are still managed as separate entities. The capital town of North Tipperary is Nenagh and the capital town of South Tipperary is Clonmel.

The 'Premier County'

County Tipperary is often referred to as the 'Premier County' and much of the local patriotism revels in this reference. The term was coined by Thomas Davis, Editor of *The Nation* newspaper in the 1840s as a tribute to the nationalistic feeling in Tipperary. He is quoted as saying "where Tipperary leads, Ireland follows".

This may, in fact, have been an adequate description a number of times throughout history when sites in the county played a very prominent part, for example as the epicentres of wars and rebellions. In 1848, 1867 and 1919 the county was at the heart of the revolution. In earlier history, Cashel was home to the high kings of Munster. As far back as the 5th century AD, the Rock of Cashel was reputedly the site of the conversion of Aenghus the King of Munster by St. Patrick.

"It's a Long Way to Tipperary"

The famous song "It's a long way to Tipperary" is also often cited in connection with the county's rich cultural and historical heritage. It was composed by Jack Judge (1872-1938), a fishmonger and music hall entertainer, in 1912 – although there is some controversy around the origin of the song.

The song was quickly adopted by a battalion of the British Army, which was made up mostly of Irishmen with connections to Tipperary Town. The soldiers taught the song to comrades and from the battlefields of France and Belgium during World War I, the fame of the song spread far and wide, and it is still known and sung today.

The county's biggest towns are:

		Population
North Tipperary	Nenagh	7,400
	Thurles	6,800
	Roscrea	4,900
	Templemore	2,200
	Ballina	1,900
	Newport	1,300
South Tipperary	Clonmel	15,500
	Carrick-on-Suir	5,900
	Tipperary	4,400
	Cahir	3,400
	Cashel	2,400
	Fethard	1,400

The majority of people in County Tipperary (over 60 per cent) do, however, live in rural areas. These are loosely structured around parish boundaries comprising an area that is served by a local church. Although parishes are a structural unit now used only by the church, much of community life is still based on them signifying the role the church has traditionally played in Irish communities.

Horse Breeding Industry

Among the features that are commonly associated with County Tipperary is also its strong connection with the horse breeding industry. The county is home to many equine businesses, most famously to Coolmore Stud, the largest thoroughbred breeding operation in the world. The equine industry has traditionally had a strong influence on the economic and social fabric of the county and many Tipperarians are involved with horses

at some level, be it professionally or in their spare time as horse owners, breeders, riders, race goers or as regular 'punters' (a person who gambles or places a bet).

Hurling

The strong association of County Tipperary with hurling goes back to the birth of the GAA mentioned on the previous page, but is kept alive by a strong support for the sport by the people of County Tipperary and notable achievements of the county's teams. The senior Tipperary team has won 25 All-Ireland titles and the county also tops the charts in the National League with 19 titles.

Local Heritage

Scattered with an abundance of important archaeological sites, County Tipperary is famed for its rich heritage.

The centre of County Tipperary is known as 'the Golden Vale', a rich pastoral stretch of land in the basin of the River Suir, which crosses the county from north to south.

Tipperary is bound by several mountain ranges (i.e. the Galtee, Knockmealdown and Slievenamon mountains) to the south and west with a border on Lough Derg in the north thus offering a superb range of outdoor activities for visitors and locals alike.

The primary historical site is that of the Rock of Cashel (see page 16), an imposing Cathedral and round tower encompassing some 2,000 years of history which was once an important ecclesiastical centre and home to the Kings of Munster.



The Rock of Cashel

Heritage Towns

Co. Tipperary is home to four designated heritage towns (Cashel, Roscrea, Ballina and Tipperary), all of which have a unique character that offers a special feeling for the past. What also makes these towns so special is the careful way in which their historical features are presented.

 www.heritagetowns.com



The Devil's Bit



The Devil's Bit (Barnane Éile) is a mountain that lies to the north-west of the town of Templemore. According to local legend, it got its name because the Devil took a bite out of it after St. Patrick banished him from a cave in the mountain. There is a small gap in the mountain between one outcrop of rock (known as the Rock) and another small plateau. The bite the devil allegedly took made this gap.

The legend also suggests that the devil broke his teeth taking this bite and the Rock of Cashel fell from his mouth to where it now stands.

Further Information

The Heritage Council
 (056) 777 0777
 mail@heritagecouncil.ie
www.heritagecouncil.ie/heritage_in_your_area/tipperary/

North Tipperary Heritage Officer
(North Tipperary County Council)
 (067) 44587
 sgeraghty@northtippcoco.ie

South Tipperary Heritage Officer
(South Tipperary County Council)
 (052) 6134559
 heritage@southtippcoco.ie
www.southtippheritage.ie

Local Information Channels

As a newcomer to County Tipperary – as with any other place in the world – it is vital to learn about different elements of everyday life in order for you to settle into your new environment. Information that relates to your immediate local vicinity or to a specific area of your interest is possibly most important in this regard.

Depending on your own cultural background you may find this type of information less accessible in Ireland than perhaps expected.

Traditionally, people in Ireland have relied heavily on social networks for information, such as immediate and extended family members, neighbours or fellow parishioners. Facilities such as pubs, post offices and village grocers or people of a particular standing in the community (school principal, priest, gardai) also commonly

served as information hubs, particularly in rural settings. Word-of-mouth therefore still plays an important role in Irish life and asking people is still good advice today for anyone who wants to find out information about a place.

You may also find, the more people you meet – e.g. through work, community events or groups, school, church, etc. – the more information you will have on what is going on in your area.

In addition to using local people and networks as a source of information, a range of formal and informal information channels are available that publicise local matters of importance, news, activities and events.

Local Newspapers

There is a range of local newspapers in County Tipperary, which are typically published on a weekly basis and can be obtained in newsagents, grocery shops, supermarkets and a number of other outlets. They include:

- *The Nationalist* (mainly South Tipperary)
- Its counterpart *The Tipperary Star* (mainly North Tipperary)
- *South Tipp Today* (a free paper that is distributed to households in the towns in South Tipperary)
- *The Nenagh Guardian* (North Tipperary) and
- *The Midland Tribune* (a Co. Offaly paper that is circulated also in North Tipperary).

These newspapers are available to read for free in the libraries. Many of the papers contain 'local notes' or 'community news' sections in which news relating to rural communities is published.

Local Radio Stations

The local radio stations are

- *Tipp FM* (95.3/ 97.1/ 97.6 or 103.9 fm) and
- *Tipperary Mid West Community Radio* (104.8 fm).

Parish Newsletters

Many parishes circulate weekly or monthly parish newsletters which are either delivered to households or available for free in designated outlets. Parish newsletters often contain a mix of information for church goers as well as general information for all people in the community. You should find out which parish you live in and ask the local priest how you might obtain the newsletter even if you are not a member of the church.

Notice Boards

Many smaller shops, larger supermarkets and all of the libraries have notice boards, which are often a great source of information, from events that take place in your vicinity to services that are offered in your area.

Local Websites

Many rural villages and smaller towns have their own websites, which – if updated regularly – can be very useful in keeping informed. In addition, there are websites by individual community, service and cultural centres. The websites www.whatsonintipp.ie and www.northtipperaryarts.org offer listings of cultural events, such as festivals, theatre, dance, music, exhibitions, crafts, literature, heritage and workshops.

Transport in County Tipperary

Once you are equipped with sufficient information about the locality you live in (who is who, what is where, and what is going on that might be of interest to you) and you have become used to some of the cultural differences between life in Tipperary and your home place, you may still face an obstacle in actively participating in community life and cultural activities: namely transport.

The best way to travel longer distances (particularly outside of the towns) is admittedly by car. Walking and cycling are, of course, healthy alternatives for shorter distances, but you should take special precautions such as wearing high-visibility vests outside of towns. If you do not have access to a car and you have to travel longer distances, there are a number of alternatives:

Town Buses

Town bus services operate in some of the bigger towns in County Tipperary. These may not always be very obvious. Typically, the town bus services are operated by private businesses and you are best advised to enquire from the local town council which company operates the service in your town. You can then contact the operator to find out about routes, timetables and fares.

Long Distance Bus Services

Public bus services outside of towns are operated by the public bus transport service Bus Éireann, but private operators also offer services on a range of routes.

 www.buseireann.ie

Rail Services

Rail services in County Tipperary connect the major towns. Thurles and Limerick Junction are the main rail hubs in the county with direct services to Cork and Dublin.

Other stations include Carrick-on-Suir, Clonmel, Cahir, Tipperary, Roscrea, Cloughjordan, Nenagh, Birdhill and Templemore. Services offered at these stations connect to the north/south and east/west routes.

 www.irishrail.ie

Rural Transport Services

Ring-a-Link is a flexible minibus service that operates in South Tipperary. You can travel to your local village or town or link on to a mainline bus or train service, provided you have pre-booked your trip (for registered customers by at least 1 hour) and your points of departure/destination are within the serviced zones.

Similar services are offered in North Tipperary by the Borrisokane Rural Transport Initiative (connecting outlying areas with Birr, Nenagh and Roscrea) and the Kilcommon/Upperchurch Rural Transport Initiative (connecting the parishes of Kilcommon, Upperchurch/Drombane, Clonoulty/Rossmore, Holycross and Templederry to the local towns).



Further Information

Ring-a-Link

☎ 1890 42 41 41

✉ ringalink@eircom.net

www.ringalink.ie

North Tipperary Rural Transport (North Tipperary LEADER Partnership)

☎ (0504) 54555 — Kilcommon/
Upperchurch

☎ (067) 27088 — Borrisokane

✉ info@ntltp.ie

Taxis/Hackneys

Taxis or hackneys are available in most towns in County Tipperary.

While taxis are allowed to pick up passengers at a rank or on the street, you cannot hail a hackney – it can only be pre-booked on a private hire basis.

There is no regulatory control over hackney fares, so hackneys don't have taximeters and you have to agree the fare before the journey begins. Hackneys can be recognised by a yellow bumper plate. Taxis display a taxi sign and must have fitted metres that calculate the costs as you go.

To locate taxi and hackney services near you, go to  www.goldenpages.ie.

Centres of Community Life

Community life in Ireland is traditionally linked with various centres of activity, among them pubs, churches and schools. In rural areas, these centres tend to retain a more central role than in towns where a range of service centres and dedicated facilities are available to take up some of the functions associated with the more traditional centres.

Pub Culture

For many, Ireland is synonymous with pubs. Until the mid-twentieth century pubs performed many economic and social functions, from locations for trade and commerce, to transportation nodes, to bases for political and community-based organisations.

In more recent times most of these ancillary activities have been transferred to other specialised entities, while pubs have increasingly been incorporated into the broader leisure and tourism industries. In rural areas, more so than perhaps in urban centres, the pub remains a central focal point of community life.

The close link of pubs with drinking as an Irish social problem has been at the centre of public debate in Ireland in recent years and some argue that particularly recent changes in legislation (e.g. introduction of the smoking ban, stricter laws on drink driving, changes in opening hours, etc.) are a threat to the pub culture.

While the role of the pub in Irish communities is subject to much debate, it can be safely said that it remains a site of social interaction. Many pubs in the towns and villages of

County Tipperary are meeting places for formal and informal groupings and activities and it may be worth while to enquire about these.

The Role of the Church

The Church, particularly the Catholic Church, has traditionally been a source of social and moral authority in Ireland. Although this has changed dramatically in recent years, it still has an important place in many Irish communities. By emphasising social values as well as religious faith through religious practice, it continues to contribute to a unique sense of community in Ireland both formally and informally.

In many areas, the Church has a key role in developing community facilities and events in terms of communal recreation and charitable activities. While there is now a strict separation of Church and State, the Irish government acknowledges the contribution of the Church (amongst, for example, sporting organisations) to building a sense of community at the local level.

Even if you are not religious, it is important that you understand the link between the Church and community life in Ireland as it finds its expression in many forms and in many places that may be misunderstood or missed otherwise.

People from countries in which secular and spiritual entities have traditionally co-existed without noticeable interaction might even feel uncomfortable with the role of the



Church particularly in rural areas or might feel excluded in some way or other.

Schools

Primary and secondary schools in Ireland also play an important role in communities. Enrolling a child in school is sometimes the first opportunity for newcomers to meet other parents or become involved in community events and activities. Parent Associations, which exist in all schools, are also an ideal source of information and advice in relation to school matters, activities and customs.

The role of primary schools is particularly important in rural areas and is rooted in the conviction that the primary school represents much more than a collection of classrooms. The school is part of the parish, the anchor of rural communities. The school is a focal point of the community, and it is the community that gives identity. The school and the parish are cornerstones on which sporting activities, such as the GAA network is built.

There is also a belief that children who go to school in the local area have a pride in the local community which can then be cultivated.

Resource Centres

Resource Centres have been an important part of community development in Ireland since the 1970s. The activities of resource centres vary greatly, but typically centres have a role in:

- Co-ordinating community groups in an area
- Developing a partnership between state agencies and voluntary groups in an area
- Providing services (either practical services, such as photocopying and secretarial services; information and advice services or specific social services that benefit the community, such as childcare, meals for the elderly, support groups etc.)
- Offering meeting spaces and facilities for members of the community

Some centres put an emphasis on providing community space, others offer specific activities for individuals and groups to enable them to assert control over their lives and participate in decisions that affect their lives. Some centres call themselves 'Community Resource Centre' (CRC), others call themselves 'Family Resource Centre' (FRC) or just 'Resource Centre', depending on their aims, objectives and funders.

In addition to Resource Centres, there are Community Development Projects (CDPs) which provide support particularly to poor, vulnerable or disadvantaged people in the communities. A list of resource centres and community development projects in County Tipperary is included at the back of this guide.

Community Facilities

The term 'community facilities' typically refers to any buildings or structures that are publicly owned, either by the community (by a specific community organisation or through local trustees) or by local authorities/the state, and that are available for use by the community. There is now a tendency to provide multipurpose facilities, i.e. buildings that accommodate general community use (such as a neutral meeting space, facilities for catering), as well as meeting the necessary requirements for sports and arts use.

Community facilities can be found in almost any location in County Tipperary. The majority of villages in the county have a community hall (sometimes also called 'parish hall' or 'community centre') and some form of an outdoor sports field or playing pitch.

Community houses are increasingly set up in urban centres, but can also be found in villages that do not have a hall. These are houses typically provided by the local authorities in housing estates, which are designated for community use and are capable of accommodating community activities such as meetings, youth groups and other forms of group based activities. Most towns have special youth centres that offer space and activities for young people.

Indoor community-owned sports facilities have been built in some of the county's towns, but are less commonly found in the rural areas, where sports activities typically take place in the community halls. The most commonly found outdoor sports facilities (besides playing fields) include basketball courts, tennis courts and handball alleys.

In general it is good advice to approach relevant contact people for community facilities as they will be able to give you information on the range of activities that take place and on the availability of these facilities for your own personal use.

Further Information

South Tipperary County Council
Community & Enterprise Section
☎ (052) 6134455
✉ dce@southtippcoco.ie

North Tipperary County Council
Community & Enterprise Section
☎ (067) 44859
✉ jmcgrath@northtippcoco.ie

Service Centres

There is a range of service centres run by state or voluntary organisations that offer activities and/or space for community activities on a regular basis. These would include libraries, arts centres, cultural centres, local enterprise centres, education centres, museums and leisure centres to name but a few. They are typically located in the towns and some of their activities will be covered in a separate chapter on 'Cultural Providers'.

Typical Elements of Community Life

Community Development

Community development has quite a long history in Ireland and its evolution over time has seen it emerge as a mainstream activity in redressing contemporary socio-economic problems such as poverty.

It can be described as a structured intervention (typically by trained professionals, such as community workers) that gives communities greater control over the conditions that affect their lives.

This does not solve all the problems faced by a local community, but it does build up confidence to tackle such problems as effectively as any local action can. Community development works at the level of local groups and organisations rather than with individuals or families.

Community development in Ireland is highly subsidised and supported by government, particularly where it works with socially excluded groups. The aim is to enable individuals and groups to identify their own development needs and work with state agencies and others involved in local development initiatives.

A large amount of community development work is channelled through the community resource centres, family resource centres and youth centres. It is almost exclusively carried out by the community and voluntary sector, i.e. by voluntary organisations that work locally.

Volunteerism

Volunteerism (or: volunteering) is at the heart of community life in Ireland. Giving up time on a voluntary basis to help others and build community spirit has been a long-standing tradition. In fact, a large number of social services and supports for vulnerable groups of the population heavily rely on volunteers.

Many services that are provided by the state in other countries are – although often subsidised by the Irish government – managed and delivered in Irish communities with a huge element of volunteerism.

Recent fears of a decline in volunteering have sparked a public debate about the necessity for, and centrality of, voluntary activity in Irish society.

The motivation of Irish people to volunteer is often rooted in a wish to help others, make a difference, or a strong belief in a particular cause.



Volunteering is seen as a commitment of time and energy (without payment) for the benefit of society, local communities, individuals outside the immediate family, the environment or other causes. It covers many different activities, for example: visiting an elderly or sick neighbour, giving blood, doing a sponsored walk, getting involved in a local sport, youth or other club, assisting a charity with its finances or administration, helping someone to read and write, planting trees, etc.

Some people volunteer a few times a year when they have a spare day, whereas others give a regular commitment of several hours per week.

In South Tipperary, a service exists that supports voluntary groups in recruiting new volunteers and vice versa helps potential volunteers to find suitable volunteering opportunities. The South Tipperary Volunteer Centre is part of a network of volunteer centres in Ireland and is a good point of contact, if you want to get involved in your community on a regular or once-off basis.

 www.volunteer.ie

Further Information

South Tipperary Volunteer Centre
 (052) 6187342
 info@volunteersouthtipp.ie
www.volunteersouthtipp.ie

Fundraising

Fundraising is a very important part of volunteerism in local communities. It is essentially the gathering of money or gifts in kind in the form of donations from the public, businesses, charitable foundations or governmental agencies. Fundraising can take many forms, some of which may be unusual, unexpected or difficult to understand for newcomers.

The raising of funds through special events is particularly popular in local communities. These range from formal dinners, table quizzes and benefit concerts to sponsored walks. Events are used to increase visibility and support for an organisation as well as raising funds. While fundraising

often involves the donation of money as an out-right gift, money may also be generated by selling a product of some kind, for example key rings, calendars with a local theme or baked goods (cake sale) or by providing a service, for example packing your bags at the supermarket. Local lotteries are another way for communities to raise funds to sustain services or to build or improve community facilities.

Often, representatives of community organisations and charities will approach you in public spaces to ask for donations. Many organisations will give you a sticker in return for your donation, which you should put on your jacket or bag in order to make it visible for other collectors that you have already made a donation. Door-to-door calls are more common in rural areas.

Raffle tickets (tickets for a draw at a designated event, where you can win a prize) and sponsorship cards are also very popular in Ireland. Sponsorship cards work on the basis that the holder of the card commits to a particular activity in the immediate future (e.g. a long walk, running a marathon, completing a parachute jump or sometimes making a sacrifice such as shaving their hair). By giving the person a donation, you are demonstrating support for the person in their venture. The money collected is passed on to the charity or organisation the person supports. Usually, sponsorship card holders will only approach people they know or people who live in their immediate vicinity.

There are countless ways of fundraising that are used by community and voluntary organisations. As



a newcomer you may not only be surprised by the creativity displayed by some Irish fundraising campaigns, but also by the types of organisations and institutions for which money is raised.

One of the most controversial topics in Ireland in this regard is the need for schools, particularly primary schools, to raise funds. You may also encounter requests for donations for services in Ireland that are perhaps fully funded by the state in your home country.

If you are unsure whether a person is a genuine representative of a charitable or local community organisation you should ask for identification. If you are in doubt, you should not make a donation.

Community Education

Community education refers to adult education and learning outside the formal education sector which aims to enhance learning, empower people and contribute to society. It is therefore a learning process which benefits the individual and their community. This flexible education and learning is typically initiated by the community (i.e. by a specific community group or through a community development project) and takes place within the local community.

Community education courses might be offered through women's groups, disability groups, Active Retirement groups and local development groups. They typically run for 6-10 weeks and can include personal development topics, health- or fitness related programmes or theme-based topics.

 www.tippssouthvec.ie
www.tippnorthvec.ie

Common Community Organisations

This chapter introduces a wide range of common community organisations in County Tipperary and explains typical aims and activities. While some are rather self-explanatory, others are distinctly Irish (in name and nature). The majority of groups can look back at a long tradition as a part of community life in the county.

Many of the groups and organisations listed here are part of a national structure or association that governs them, which does not compromise the local character of these groups. Not all of the groups exist in all locations in County Tipperary.

Some of the groups require the payment of an annual (or once-off) membership fee, while others have no cost element.

Where demand for membership is very high and a group's capacity is restricted (or the size of the group is limited by nature, such as in some types of sport) groups might have waiting lists in operation.

Most groups are governed by elected officers (Chairperson, Secretary, Public Relations Officer [PRO] and Treasurer) who are often good persons to contact for information about a group.

In any case, if you are interested in joining a group, you should always make personal contact with a member or with one of the officers of the group to enquire about membership details including any costs and the contribution (time, voluntary effort, etc.) that might be expected of members.

If you or a member of your family has been put on a waiting list, the

onus is usually on you to follow up and make contact with the group at regular intervals (this may not always be said to you).

Community Development Groups

Community Councils

Community Councils are voluntary, typically elected committees that aim to involve all members of the community in identifying their local needs and taking action to resolve them. In short, the aim of community councils is to create better places to live in. Often times, Community Councils are made up of representatives from other community organisations in an attempt to accurately represent community activities in an area.

 www.muintir.ie

Development Associations

Development Associations are very similar to community councils, but usually aim to address a specific need in an area. This could be to promote their community (e.g. as a tourist attraction), enhance the quality of life of residents, protect the environment, or promote their unique heritage and culture. They tend to work in partnership with the community, voluntary groups, schools and agencies to maximise the benefits for community members, rather than representing the community as a whole.

Hall/Field Committees

Hall or Field Committees are voluntary committees that are concerned with the upkeep and management and maintenance of a community facility, such as a Community Hall or a Community Field. They would typically be involved in raising funds to maintain and/or renovate a community facility, look after security aspects including insurance, administer bookings and monitor the use of the relevant facility.

Community Alert/Neighbourhood Watch

Community Alert and Neighbourhood Watch groups aim to address safety and security issues in a community. They work together with An Garda Síochána to reduce crime or anti-social behaviour in an area (for example by raising awareness of a local issue), increase the safety, particularly of older people in their homes or tackle road safety issues. Community Alert groups operate in rural areas while Neighbourhood Watch groups operate in towns and cities.

 www.muintir.ie

Tidy Towns Committees

Tidy Towns Committees are typically made up of volunteers that have a keen interest in gardening, horticulture, the environment and heritage. These groups try to improve their local environment and make their area a better place to live, work and visit.

Usual projects include clean-ups, landscaping, setting up or maintaining natural amenities, improving architectural features in town/village centres or carrying out restoration and conservation works.

Since the 1950s, groups take part in an annual competition run by the

Government that rates villages and towns on all aspects of their local environment and awards prizes to the best under many different categories.

 www.tidytowns.ie

Residents' Associations

Residents' Associations are committees made up of residents in a specific housing estate or area that concern themselves with issues that affect all residents. This could include maintenance work (such as grass cutting) or the provision or maintenance of facilities and amenities (car parking, street lighting, playgrounds, etc.). Other residents' associations are simply set up to develop a sense of community, for example by organising events or activities or to overcome social problems.

 www.myresidents.ie

Parent Associations

Parent Associations are made up of the parents of students in a school. Membership of that association is usually open to all parents of students of that school. The parent association in a school works with the principal, staff and board of management to build an effective partnership between home and school and to promote the interests of the students. Parent associations are often involved in raising funds for a school and organising social events or extracurricular activities for students and their parents.

 www.npc.ie
www.npcpp.ie

Social Groups

Active Retirement Associations

The philosophy of Active Retirement Associations and Senior Citizens Clubs is based on the principle that older people do things for themselves. These groups aim to help older people lead a full, happy and healthy life by offering organised opportunities for a wide range of activities.

By enabling older people in local communities to get involved in something that they like, they can foster new friendships, learn new skills, stay physically active and find support.

 www.fara.ie

Women's/Men's Groups

Women's Groups (sometimes also called 'Ladies Clubs') or Men's Groups are primarily social groups with a gender focus. They commonly aim to empower and support women (or men) of all ages, cultures and beliefs in a creative, social, safe and fun environment.

Regular meetings are usually complemented by information sessions and social, educational and sports activities in order to get people socialising and communicating. Some groups have a charitable role and engage in fundraising for their community or supporting people in need.

ICA Guilds

ICA stands for Irish Countrywomen's Association, the largest women's organisation in Ireland.

Local ICA Guilds, as they are called, offer activities that range from artistic and cultural to educational programmes or might involve physical activity and discussions on topics

of interest to most women (health, education, cooking, fashion, beauty).

ICA meetings often include guest speakers.

 www.ica.ie

Macra na Feirme

Macra na Feirme (Irish for 'elite of the land') is a voluntary organisation for young people between the ages of 17 and 35 in rural areas that aims to promote agricultural and rural development.

Local clubs engage in six key areas of activity: agriculture, sports, travel, public speaking, community involvement and performing arts. They put their main emphasis on the personal development of members, on social interaction and participation. There are over 300 Macra clubs in Ireland.

 www.macra.ie

Foróige

Foróige Clubs (Irish for 'development of youth') are groups made up of young people from a local community. They enable young people to experience democracy by electing their own club committee and managing and operating the club in co-operation with adult leaders.

Foróige clubs normally consist of less than 30 young people, aged 12-18 years, and voluntary adult leaders. Clubs usually hold formal meetings where members make decisions concerning the club. They also offer activities based on Foróige's education programmes and recreational activities such as sports and games.

 www.foroige.ie



Youth Clubs

Youth clubs are also run by regional youth services (e.g. Tipperary Regional Youth Service [TRYs]) or in conjunction with resource centres. Similar to the Foroige clubs, they are local groups for young people, usually aged between 12 and 18 years, with a number of adult leaders that offer recreational and educational activities.

 www.try.s.ie

Scouts

Scouting Ireland is a youth based association that is affiliated to the World Organisation of the Scout Movement. Local Scout groups (called divisions) aim to support young people in their physical, mental and spiritual development, so that they may play constructive roles in society. The movement employs the Scout method, a program of informal education with an emphasis on practical outdoor activities, including camping, woodcraft, hiking, backpacking, and sports.

Another characteristic is the Scout uniform, which aims to overcome all differences of social standing. The core scout programme is aimed at young people aged 12 years and over, while younger children are accommodated in groups called 'beavers' (for children aged 6-8 years) and 'cubs' (8-11 years).

 www.scouts.ie

Parent and Toddler Groups

Parent and toddler groups operate in many communities to allow very young children and their parents to meet and socialise. They also provide informal support to children, their parents, grandparents and childminders and are an important source of social contact especially for new parents and families new to an area.

In some areas, you can find Mother and Baby Groups which are intended especially for new mothers.

Charities and Groups that Support People in Need

Charities and voluntary groups that support people in need have a long tradition in Ireland. In fact, over time it has created an entire service sector that is almost entirely based on voluntary effort. Today, many of the organisations provide services in tandem with professional staff, but still offer unique opportunities for volunteering in a community.

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is the largest, voluntary, charitable organisation in Ireland. It has several local branches in County Tipperary. St. Vincent de Paul works for social justice and gives practical support to those experiencing poverty and social exclusion, by providing a wide range of services to people in need.

 www.svp.ie

Social Services

Area or community-based social services also belong in the category of voluntary groups that aim to respond to the needs of vulnerable people in the community. In these organisations volunteers often provide direct assistance to individuals and offer specific services that might include meals-on-wheels, accommodation for homeless people or transport for older people.

Lions Clubs

Lions Clubs are part of an international organisation that was founded in the United States of America in 1917. They were introduced in Ireland in 1955 and there are now over 100 clubs here.

Members volunteer their time to humanitarian causes in their local communities, e.g. to help people in need. This is done through various projects, which might include taking older, lonely people on holiday, supporting people with a particular health problem or involving young people in charitable work.

 www.lionsclubs.ie

Rotary Clubs

There are also a number of Rotary Clubs in the county. Their stated aim is to bring together business and professional leaders to provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill and peace in the world. Members usually meet weekly for breakfast, lunch or dinner, which is a social event as well as an opportunity to organise work on their service goals.

 www.district1160.org

Legion of Mary

The Legion of Mary is a Catholic association that was founded in Dublin in 1921. Members serve the Church on a voluntary basis. The Legion sees as its priority the spiritual and social welfare of each individual. The members participate in the life of the parish through visitation of families, the sick, both in their homes and in hospitals and through collaboration in every apostolic and missionary undertaking sponsored by the parish.

 www.legion-of-mary.ie

Theme-Based Groups

There are a number of agriculturally and nature-orientated clubs and groupings in Co. Tipperary, such as:

- Ploughing Associations
 www.npa.ie
- Garden and Flower Clubs
 www.garden.ie
- Horticultural Societies
 www.rhs.ie
- Allotment Groups
 www.irishallotments.net
- Beekeepers Associations
 www.irishbeekeeping.ie
- Birdwatch
 www.birdwatchireland.ie
- Country Market Groups
 www.bordbia.ie and
- Agricultural Show Societies
 www.irishshowsassociation.ie.

The largest animal welfare groups in Ireland include the

- Irish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ISPICA)
 www.ispca.ie and the

- Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind
👉 www.guidedogs.ie.

There is also a network of voluntary animal rescue centres that offer opportunities for volunteering.

The most common organisations concerned with safety and security issues (apart from Community Alert and Neighbourhood Watch) are

- The Order of Malta
👉 www.orderofmalta.ie
- The Red Cross
👉 www.redcross.ie
- The Civil Defence
👉 www.civildefence.ie
- Mountain Rescue
👉 www.mountainrescue.ie and
- River Rescue
👉 www.civildefence.ie

Finally, a number of organisations foster hunting (👉 www.hai.ie or www.nargc.ie) and coursing (👉 www.irishcoursingclub.ie) traditions in Ireland.

Hunting with hounds is a popular tradition in Ireland that goes back to ancient times and features strongly in Celtic literature and legend.

Coursing is the pursuit of game (typically a hare) by dogs (typically greyhounds). It was a common hunting technique and is now practised as a popular sport in Ireland. Both hunting and coursing are met with some controversy by Irish society today.

Support Groups

Support groups are more likely to be found in urban areas. They operate on a peer support basis, where people from similar backgrounds and living

circumstances (often times in relation to a health concern) provide emotional or practical help to each other.

In most cases, the groups are facilitated by professionals or group leaders that have obtained special qualifications in running support groups. The availability of local support groups very much depends on demand and on the availability of persons to facilitate them. Some of the support groups that can be found in County Tipperary include:

- Alcoholics Anonymous (for men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism)
👉 www.al-anon-ireland.org
- Aware (for people affected by depression either as sufferers or as family members and friends)
👉 www.aware.ie
- Grow (for people who have suffered or are suffering from mental health problems)
👉 www.grow.ie
- Rainbows (for young people who are suffering due to death or separation)
👉 www.rainbowsireland.com

There are also support groups for bereaved people (including those affected by suicide and parents who lost a child), parents of children with disabilities (e.g. Autism and ADHD), sufferers of a specific health condition (e.g. Alzheimer's Disease, Cancer, Cystic Fibrosis, etc.), people who parent alone, carers, breastfeeding mothers and women who have suffered from domestic violence to name but a few.

Further Information

To find out more about support groups in your area, you should either contact your GP, check the local information channels (see p. 16) or search the internet. The majority of support groups are facilitated by national or regional organisations.

Sports Organisations

The GAA

GAA stands for Gaelic Athletic Association (Irish: Cumann Lúthchleas Gael). The GAA is the national organisation for the Irish sports of hurling, Gaelic football, and handball. It was founded in 1884 to revive and nurture these traditional, indigenous pastimes.

There are over 2,500 local GAA Clubs in Ireland. Each county has their own club competitions. Winners in each county go forward to provincial and all-Ireland championships. Clubs are generally based in a specific geographic area (usually a parish), and draw their players from that area. They usually have one or more teams at various levels. Most clubs will have both hurling and football teams, but some clubs will concentrate exclusively on one or other of the two Gaelic Games. There are also inter-county teams which are selected from the best players from the clubs in every county. If you or your children want to get involved in hurling, Gaelic football, Ladies Gaelic football or handball, you have to apply for membership to a local club. A membership fee applies.

 www.tipperary.gaa.ie

Community Games

Clubs and activities associated with Community Games are very popular in County Tipperary as elsewhere in the country. Community Games are a programme by the national health service HSE that provides opportunities for children and young people (aged 6-16) to experience a wide range of sporting and cultural activities. The programme includes activities and competitions in volleyball, table tennis, swimming, soccer, various athletic events, skittles and rugby to name but a few, but it will depend on the size of local groups and demand, which sports are provided.

 www.communitygames.ie

Athletics Clubs

Athletics Clubs usually cater for various athletic sports and for different age groups, depending on the local demand. This might include running events (sprints, middle- and long distance running, hurdle) high jump, long jump, shots, discus and hammer. Athletics Clubs are usually affiliated to the national association called Athletics Ireland. In some areas athletics clubs are coupled with football clubs to form AFC's.

 www.athleticsireland.ie

Football Clubs

Football Clubs are soccer clubs, most of which are affiliated to the Football Association of Ireland (FAI). Football is played in every corner of County Tipperary and there is a club and a league within reach of every potential participant.

Schoolboy clubs are affiliated to the Schoolboy Football Association of Ireland and cater for all ages from U16 (under 16 years of age)

Gaelic Sports

Hurling is an Irish game of Celtic origin that is similar to hockey and dates back to 400 AD. It is Europe's oldest field game. It is played with an ash stick called a hurley (Irish: camán) and a hard leather ball called a sliotar that is similar in size to a hockey ball but has raised ridges. Hurling is played by two teams of 15 players each on a pitch with goalposts that are the same shape as on a rugby pitch. Players may strike the ball on the ground, or in the air. Unlike hockey, players may pick up the ball with their hurley and carry it for not more than four steps in the hand. To score, the ball has to be put over the crossbar with the hurley or under the crossbar and into the net by the hurley for a goal.

Gaelic Football is a form of football played mainly in Ireland. It can be described as a mixture of soccer and rugby. It is played by teams of 15 players on a pitch with goalposts which are the same shape as on a rugby pitch. The ball used in Gaelic Football is round and slightly smaller than a soccer ball. It can be carried in the hand for a distance of four steps and can be kicked or 'hand-passed'. To score, the ball has to be put over the goalpost's crossbar by foot or hand/fist for one point or under the crossbar and into the net by foot or hand/fist in certain circumstances for a goal, the latter being the equivalent of three points.

Handball involves two or four players and is similar to squash without the rackets. It is played in indoor or outdoor "alleys" of varying sizes. The object of the game is to strike the tiny ball (less than 6 cm in diameter) against the wall(s) in the hope that this will place it where it cannot be reached by the opponent. The ball is struck with the palm of the hand or sometimes with a closed fist. When a player has 21 points, they have won the game, and the player who is first to win two games is declared the winner of the match.

Ladies Gaelic Football is very similar to the male form of Gaelic football, where two teams of 15 players kick or punch a round ball towards goals at either end of a grass pitch. There are small variations in the rules and the game is less physical: all deliberate bodily contact is forbidden except when 'shadowing' an opponent, competing to catch the ball, or blocking the delivery of the ball. The sport is coordinated by the Ladies Gaelic Football Association of Ireland (Irish: Cumann Peil Gael na mBan), not the GAA.

Camogie is the woman's variant of Hurling. There are small variations in the rules and the stick used in camogie is shorter (Irish: camóg). The sport is coordinated by the Camogie Association of Ireland (Irish: Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael), not the GAA.

down. Youth leagues bridge the gap between schoolboy and adult football. 37 leagues provide football for adult players at junior and intermediate level.

Lastly the League of Ireland caters for the elite player with four divisions, Premier, First, A championship and U20.

There are also a number of women's leagues which are affiliated to the Women's Football Association of Ireland. Some football clubs are coupled with athletic clubs to form AFC's or with rugby to form RFC's.

 www.fai.ie

Hillwalking

Hillwalking is a particularly popular activity in County Tipperary. This is no surprise as the county is surrounded by mountain ranges, such as the Galtee Mountains, the Knockmealdown Mountains, and the Slievenamon Mountains.

There are a number of walking clubs. These clubs offer regular walks and tend to cater for different categories of experience among all age groups.

There are also festivals that celebrate hillwalking: e.g. the annual Upperchurch Walking Weekend in November and the Glen of Aherlow Walking Festival in May/June of each year. These festivals offer a variety of guided walks showcasing the natural environment of the mountains, lakes, rivers, forestry and sites of historical and cultural significance in their area.

 www.mountaineering.ie

Other Sports

There is an endless number of other local sports clubs in County Tipperary. Popular sports outside of Gaelic games, athletics and soccer include

angling, tennis, basketball, cycling, boxing, martial arts, badminton, and golf (although the latter is not typically community-based, but associated with a golf course).

If you are interested in a particular sport, it is good advice to either contact the national organisation associated with the sport or contact the local sports partnership and enquire about the availability of local groups and their contact details.

Further Information

South Tipperary Sports Partnership
 (062) 64737
 info@stsp.ie
www.stsp.ie

North Tipperary Sports Partnership
 (067) 43604
 info@ntsp.ie
www.ntsp.ie

Culturally-Orientated Organisations

Local arts and cultural groups that keep alive traditions, teach people art, music or dancing skills and celebrate the communal element of typical "Irish" art forms are one of the backbones of Ireland's distinct cultural wealth and heritage. At local level, choirs, musical societies, dancing groups and musicians are equally as important as all other community-building activities.

Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann

Established in the 1950s, Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann is the largest group involved in the preservation and promotion of Irish traditional

music. It is a cultural movement with hundreds of local branches – 14 of which are located in County Tipperary – that are involved in teaching Irish music, dance and language classes, organising traditional music sessions and promoting Irish traditional culture through media, organised events and networking.

 www.comhaltas.ie

Scór

Scór is a programme within the GAA, which actively supports the Irish language, traditional Irish dancing, music, song and other aspects of Irish culture. It is divided into two sections: Scór na nÓg caters for the younger GAA members while Scór Sinsear caters for adult members. Scór essentially consists of competitions that commence in each county with clubs competing to represent their county in one of the many different events, which include dancing, singing, recitation/storytelling and playing of musical instruments.

Community Games

Similar to the GAA's Scór programme, the HSE Community Games (see also p. 32) combines sporting and cultural activities. Their list of activities and competitions includes for example talent competitions, model making, choir and art.

Choirs

Choirs are an important part of the Irish cultural scene. Most choral singers would agree that singing together is fun, gives a greater sense of confidence and well-being, provides a positive opportunity for self-expression and is a great social outlet. There is a large variety of choirs and choral



societies. Many choirs are an integral part of religious worship and local churches tend to have their own junior (for young people) or senior (for adults) choir.

But there are also a large number of independent, locally-based choirs that contribute to the choral scene. In recent years, Gospel choirs with a more multicultural focus have become very popular and can now be found in most of the towns in County Tipperary alongside more traditional male, female or unisex choirs for various age groups.

Musical Societies

Musical societies are also very popular in Ireland. They aim to provide quality musical theatre entertainment by staging amateur music theatre productions in their locality.

Musical societies are an ideal opportunity for people to use their talents in all aspects of music theatre, including singing, dancing and directing, but also stage building, make-up and costume design. The Association of Irish Musical Societies (AIMS) – the umbrella organisation for over 130 musical societies in Ireland – estimates that around 14,000 people are directly involved with musical theatre.

 www.aims.ie

Drama Groups

Locally-based amateur drama groups offer opportunities for people of all ages to express themselves through theatre. The aim of such groups is often to develop and foster an interest in theatre throughout their locality, both among their members and audiences. Similar to musical societies, drama groups prepare and stage regular productions which can be part of charitable fundraising campaigns.

Marching Bands

Marching bands consist of a mix of instrumental musicians, dance teams and colour guards. They tend to perform outdoors, are characterised by a specific uniform and are an integral part of the parades that are common in Ireland on occasions such as St. Patrick's Day and Christmas.

Majorettes are part of the marching band tradition and often make up the dance element in parades. They are groups of girls or women performing choreographed dances or marches that involve baton twirling and rhythmic gymnastics.

Bands and Musical Ensembles

Ireland also offers a rich tradition of local bands and musical ensembles that is irrevocably linked to the pub culture. Although bands and musical ensembles are usually formed on an informal level within the 'music scene', there are a number of distinct performance outlets for them in Ireland apart from pub gigs, among them a strong tradition of hiring live bands for family functions (particularly weddings), gala events, dances and festivals.

The more popular events include

so-called 'battles of the bands' – locally organised talent/music competitions among bands that typically take place in a pub and are open to all amateur bands.

Trad Sessions

Individual musicians will find opportunities to join forces with other musicians in spontaneous or scheduled trad sessions. They are informal gatherings of amateur musicians in a local pub that celebrate traditional Irish music. In some cases, pub owners will hire one or two musicians with the option of other musicians joining spontaneously. The repertoire is typically comprised of traditional, popular pieces of music and depends largely on improvisations.

Irish Dancing

Irish dancing is divided into social dancing and performance dancing. Both adhere to strict routines and guidelines. At community level, it is more likely to encounter social dance groups, which are referred to as céilí dance or set dancing groups.

Céilí and set dancing groups are part of a living tradition that can be quite competitive. Newcomers to Irish dancing may benefit from Irish dance classes to familiarise themselves with the traditional elements of the dance form before joining a social dancing group. Most towns have their own schools of dance, which hold classes in Irish dancing.

Book and Writers Clubs

Book lovers may wish to join one of the many local book clubs available in County Tipperary. These can be found in most libraries and are always open to new members.

At book clubs, members read a designated book and meet once a month in the library to discuss it.

In addition to the libraries' book clubs, there are a number of informal book clubs that either meet in public places or privately among friends. A scheme called "Book Club in a Bag" run by the libraries aims to encourage people to set up their own book clubs.

There are also writers clubs and associations that serve as a platform for amateur and professional writers to discuss their work and learn from each other.

Historical Societies

Local historical (and archaeological) societies are groups of amateur historians and voluntary museums that take a special interest in the history of their locality. Historical societies tend to research in the fields of history, archaeology, folk-life and folklore on a voluntary basis and often publish their findings in newsletters, journals or other publications. They also offer an opportunity for members to organise and/or access events such as seminars on local history topics.

Heritage Groups

Heritage groups are similar to historical societies, but tend to focus more on the preservation and promotion of local natural, built and cultural heritage rather than researching it (although this plays an important part). Depending on their locality, this could include a focus on monuments, archaeological objects, architectural heritage, flora, fauna, wildlife habitats, landscapes, or waterways.

Vintage Clubs

Vintage clubs take an interest in older vehicles. Apart from sharing their hobby – the love of vintage cars and motorbikes, vintage tractors and farm machinery and vintage transportation of any type – clubs often engage in fundraising events (Vintage Days, Tractor Runs, etc.) in support of local communities or charitable organisations and show their vehicles in parades. For members, they offer informative meetings and opportunities to locate parts needed for the maintenance or restoration of vehicles and social outings.

Further Information

The South Tipperary County Council maintains a searchable database of community groups that can be found at www.southtippcoco.ie/myparish/

The following organisations may also be able to help you find information about the availability of particular activities in your area, if the local information channels (see p. 16) have not yielded any results:

South Tipperary Community & Voluntary Forum
☎ (052) 6180699
✉ southtipforum@eircom.net

North Tipperary Community and Voluntary Association (CAVA)
☎ (067) 44648
✉ info@cava.ie
www.cava.ie

Other Popular Group Activities

There are a number of popular group activities taking place in Irish communities that do not necessarily require formal groups and organisations, but are nevertheless an integral and distinct part of community life.

Cards

The love of the Irish to engage in playing cards in a public, social setting is among them. Many communities offer regular (i.e. weekly) card nights in community halls and particularly older people see them as an important part of their social life.

In some cases, the cards nights are part of a fundraising campaign. In the period leading up to Easter or Christmas, many pubs have card drives (tournaments), where players can win money, vouchers or goods (e.g. hams and turkeys).

The most common card games are Progressive 25, 45, Whist and Bridge.

25 and 45 are popular traditional Irish card games that may seem particularly complicated to beginners. 45 involves a complex scoring system with points awarded for certain hands, the winner being the first to reach a score of 45 points. 25 is an old Irish card-game in which the player winning three tricks takes the pool; if he wins all five, the other players pay him a bonus.

Whist and Bridge are similar to each other. They are classic trick-taking card games played by four players who play in two partnerships with the partners sitting opposite each other.

Bingo

Bingo is a game of chance that is also very popular in Ireland. The standard bingo game played in Irish communities is called 90 ball bingo.

Players buy tickets (also known as 'cards') that contain 15 numbers, which range from 1 to 90. When the game begins, numbers are called at random between 1 and 90. The player compares those numbers to the numbers on his or her ticket(s).

Whoever is first to get a line (i.e. to fill five numbers in a row across their ticket), wins the first line prize. The next prize is awarded to the player to fill two lines. After that, players aim for a full house – that's filling all three lines on a ticket.

Table Quizzes

Table quizzes are a popular form of fundraiser, but can also be found in Irish pubs as a regular, competitive event in the form of table quiz leagues.

The quiz tradition is deeply rooted in Ireland and young children are brought up in the tradition through schools and community games competitions.

Pub or table quizzes consists of a series of questions that have to be answered in writing usually by quiz teams of four. Answer sheets are collected after each round of questions and scores are calculated. The quiz night is often concluded by a raffle, where people who bought tickets on the night can win small prizes ('spot' or 'table prizes').

Cultural Providers

Libraries

Tipperary Libraries runs the public library service for the whole county of Tipperary. The library service is committed to ensuring that everyone has equal opportunity access to a high quality library and information service which is responsive to the changing needs of our communities and is fully supportive of the process of life-long learning.

Branches can be found in Borrisokane, Cahir, Carrick-on-Suir, Cashel, Clonmel, Cloughjordan, Killenaule, Nenagh, Roscrea, Templemore, Thurles and Tipperary. Tipperary Studies and the Schools Service support the delivery of library services, which include adult lending, children's and young adult libraries, reference and local studies collections, newspapers and magazines, inter library loans, large print, talking books and adult literacy material.

In addition, a 24-hour online library, available at www.tipperaryllibraries.ie allows you to search the library catalogue and to request and renew online. Extensive online and electronic resources are available on our website and at your local branch.

Tipperary Libraries also offer broadband/internet and PC access, study facilities, exhibition space, photocopying facilities and READable technologies for those who find conventional text difficult to read.

Many libraries facilitate book clubs (for children and adults), story time, craft circles and offer events such as competitions, workshops, literary evenings and exhibitions. See the

programme of children's and adults events on the Tipperary Libraries blog at www.tipperarylibrarynews.ie.

There is a nominal annual registration fee for adults and it is free for children to join. Call in to see how easy it is to join your local library.

www.tipperaryllibraries.ie

Arts and Cultural Centres

There are a number of arts and cultural centres in County Tipperary which offer a range of services and activities including exhibitions, performances and workshops.

For anyone interested in arts and culture, their local centre is an ideal port of call to enquire about ongoing and once-off activities to get involved in. Most of the centres are home to culturally-orientated community groups, offer community outreach programmes or once-off events and activities.

South Tipperary Arts Centre

The South Tipperary Arts Centre is located in Clonmel. It has been in existence since 1996 and offers a mixture of arts and cultural events including festivals, workshops and exhibitions in respect of local, national and international visual arts, performing arts, music and literature.

The Centre supports local and emerging visual artists, but also has a remit in bringing art to the viewing public. Approximately 13 visual arts exhibitions are held at the centre each

year. The centre also hosts a number of cultural groups, such as the Cluain Meala Writers' Group, South Tipperary Arts Group (STAG) and the AC Music Club all of whom hold regular meetings in the workshop space.

Regular educational programmes include wide-ranging classes and workshops in various art forms for adults and children. In addition, the centre offers an outreach programme that helps to bring art into the community to reach those who may not be able to access or participate in creative activities and a Gallery Education Programme that offers guided tours of the Visual Arts Exhibitions in the Main Gallery as well as practical workshops and discussions.

 www.southtipparts.com

Tipperary Excel

The Tipperary Excel Arts and Cultural Centre is located in Tipperary Town. It includes a gallery, cinema, a modern 360-seat theatre (the Simon Ryan Theatre) with a bar, a gift and craft shop called the 'Treasure Chest', the 'French Quarter Café', as well as a tourist information service and the Family Research Centre – a facility that offers a research service based on access to church records.

The Tipperary Excel runs a wide-ranging programme of events including movies, theatre and dance performances, music shows, readings as well as dance, music and arts and crafts workshops that are open to any member of the public.

 www.tipperary-excel.com

The Source

The Source Arts Centre is the newest arts centre in County Tipperary and is

located in Thurles. It consists of a 250 seat auditorium, a dedicated gallery space and the 'Waterfront Café'. It is part of an integrated cultural centre which also houses the Thurles Branch of Tipperary Libraries.

A year round programme of events includes film, theatre, dance, ballet, opera, music, family events and visual art exhibitions. Alongside the professional events the Source offers an extensive community and youth outreach programme, which includes a youth drama group and a community space that can be used by any community group.

 www.thesourceartscentre.ie

Nenagh Arts Centre

Located near the Courthouse in Banba Square, Nenagh Arts Centre is a Community Arts Centre with a 220 seat theatre and additional training and workshop spaces.

The Centre supports local artistic groups in their work and offers opportunities for individuals to develop skills in both arts and related community development areas. Organisations using the venue include Nenagh Players and Nenagh Youth Theatre.

The Centre is also a partner in the Spleodar Arts Festival, which brings light and artistic life to the town during the Halloween mid-term period. The Centre also works on Nenagh Film Festival which, in existence for two years, features the best in local and regional film-makers work as well as offering a challenging programme of world cinema.

The Centre and workshop spaces are available for visiting productions, conferences, group meetings and classes.

 www.nenagharts.com

Brú Ború

The Brú Ború Cultural Centre is located in Cashel. It is home to the Brú Ború group, which regularly performs Irish traditional music, song, and dance both in the centre and on worldwide tours.

Facilities at Brú Ború include a folk theatre, restaurant, craft centre, recreation chamber, information centre, and genealogy suite.

During the summer season (June to September), there is an extensive programme of services and activities on offer. This includes exciting stage shows of top class traditional music, song and dance. The Glór na gCianta (Sounds of History) are subterranean chambers, seven metres underground at the base of the famous Rock of Cashel that echo to the story of Ireland from ancient times to the present day.

South Tipperary County Museum

In addition to the arts and cultural centres, museums tend to offer a wide range of community-based activities that are generally open for participation by members of the public.

The Clonmel-based South Tipperary County Museum, for example, offers a regular programme of in house and visiting exhibitions that cover a wide range of topics and supplement the exhibitions on the history of the county. It also runs educational programmes and community exhibitions in conjunction with participating schools, retirement groups and local community groups.

The dedicated educational facility of the museum offers regular workshops, talks, demonstrations and educational activities, both for adults and children.



Local Events

Locally-run events, such as village and town festivals (often known as 'field days'), fundraising days, agricultural shows and recurring arts and cultural festivals are another opportunity for people interested in the arts to get involved.

Field Days

Field days have a long tradition in Ireland, particularly in rural areas. After the tradition had somewhat declined in the last decades it would appear that many towns and villages are organising these annual, local festivities again in a bid to revive the tradition and as a means of raising funds for the community.

Field days are family fun days that present an opportunity for the entire community to come out and share in festivities which would typically include sporting and other competitions, less ordinary, but popular contests (e.g. wellie throwing), stalls selling local produce, crafts or bric-a-brac, performances/exhibitions by local groups and organisations and specific activities for children, such as bouncy castles, face painting or pony riding.

Agricultural Shows

Agricultural shows (usually named after their location, i.e. Clonmel Show, Killusty Show, etc.) are similar events, but generally centre on animals and agricultural themes.

Historically, these shows developed from cattle shows run under the auspices of the Royal Agricultural Society of Ireland, at which agricultural animals were showcased and traded. Today's shows celebrate and showcase all aspects of food, farming and rural life and include many attractions that welcome the general public.

Arts and Cultural Festivals

There are a number of annual arts festivals in the county that welcome visitors and offer a wide range of activities. Many are organised on a voluntary basis and represent an opportunity for interested people to get involved in the organisation and management of the festivals. Some of the established festivals include:

- **Tipperariana Book Fair, Fethard (February)**

This is the largest one-day book fair in Ireland with over 40 book dealers selling books of all types and shapes from antiquarian books to modern pulp fiction paperback. It is organised by the Fethard Historical Society.

- **The Bealtaine Festival (May)**

This festival is part of a national programme run throughout May each year in association with Age and Opportunity which aims to actively involve older people in arts events, workshops and activities. The festival is organised by North and South Tipperary

County Council Arts Services and the County Library Service. A wide range of events are offered each year (most of which are free and are open to the public).

- **The Clancy Brothers Musical Festival, Carrick-on-Suir (June)**

This festival which takes place in the home town of the famous Clancy Brothers hosts professional music events, stage performances, open air entertainment and family events for all. Local art is also on display at various locations.

www.clancybrothersfestival.org

- **Cloughjordan Festival (June/July)**

A weekend of fun, music and art, the festival was established to celebrate not only the local arts and crafts of the North Tipperary village but also to bring national artists to Cloughjordan.

www.cloughjordanfestival.com

- **Féile Brian Ború (Ballina/Killaloe – July)**

This is an annual 5-day festival to commemorate Ireland's greatest high king in his native place. Events include history and heritage events, music, sports and children's activities.

www.feilebrianboru.killaloe.ie

- **The Junction Festival, Clonmel (July)**

The Junction Festival offers nine days of theatre, circus, comedy and quality Irish and world music as well as a selection of street performances. It is a celebration of cultural exuberance and diversity and has a distinctly family friendly programme. It also runs an extensive participation and volunteers' programme.

www.junctionfestival.com

- **Terryglass Arts Festival (August)**
This is a family focused festival that offers a diverse range of artistic events and experiences over a four day period at the end of August each year. As a multi disciplinary arts festival the programme includes: visual arts, dance, theatre, music, poetry, film, storytelling and performance.
www.terryglassartsfestival.ie
- **Fethard Medieval Festival (August)**
The Medieval Festival in Fethard celebrates the Irish Walled Towns Day each year with events to suit all ages, including a medieval fair, a fancy dress parade, guided tours and street entertainers.
www.fethardfestival.com
- **Dromineer Literary Festival (October)**
This festival is described as a winter literary festival celebrating the best in local and national literary talent in all its forms. It hosts writing competitions, workshops, readings and literary events for participants of all ages.
www.dromineerliteraryfestival.ie
- **Spleodar Festival, Nenagh (October)**
Spleodar Community Arts Festival is Nenagh's Halloween Festival. The word 'Spleodar' itself is the Irish word for explosion or outburst of energy. The festival aims to create a space in which the creativity of the community bursts out and to celebrate Halloween when the oncoming darkness of winter is vanquished in a riot of colour — in fire and firework, music and song, costume and dance.
www.nenagharts.com/spleodar
- **Cashel Arts Fest (November)**
This is a community festival which offers a series of platforms and opportunities for all sections of the community to engage with a variety of art disciplines in a meaningful and enjoyable way. The festival culminates with a number of formal and informal performing opportunities in which the results of this creative process will be showcased.
www.cashelartsfest.com
- **Clonmel Song Contest (November)**
This is an annual international song contest held in Clonmel which culminates in a Grand Final where ten finalists chosen from an average of 150 entries compete for prizes. The event is open to the general public, local music lovers and supporters of the artists.
www.clonmelnationalsoncontest.com
- **SongFest.ie, Clonmel (November)**
Aimed at songwriters, this festival provides workshops in songwriting, sound engineering, recording and the music business. It also includes public performances by many established songwriters.
www.songfest.ie
- **The Platform TV.com, Clonmel (Monthly)**
At this monthly event, national and international participants perform their works in front of a live audience at Gleeson's Bar (Irishtown). The performances can also be viewed on the internet.
www.theplatformtv.com

Further Information

The following two websites have up-to-date information on cultural providers and events:

- www.whatsonintipp.ie
(South Tipperary)
- www.northtipperaryarts.org
(North Tipperary)

Arts Services

North Tipperary County Council Arts Service

The North Tipperary County Council is home to a dedicated Arts Service which works towards the continuing development of the arts in the north of the county. It provides a developmental arts programme, grants and also advice and information for anyone who is interested in the arts. The service publishes a quarterly newsletter that lists events including festivals, workshops and exhibitions as well as information about ongoing community-based groups and activities.

South Tipperary County Council Arts Service



The Art Service aims to encourage the promotion of the arts and to maximize their potential both directly and as an 'enabler' and to ensure that the planning and policy of the arts in the county is both developmental and strategic, striving for quality, inclusion, access and sustainability. The service aims to be as inclusive as possible to all sectors of society and to ensure a provision and promotion of local, national and international arts, across


all art forms, throughout the whole of South Tipperary. The service provides arts information and advice, arts programming and arts grants for the community of South Tipperary.

South Tipperary Cultural Providers Group

South Tipperary Cultural Providers Group is a group of arts, cultural and heritage organisations within South Tipperary. The Group publishes a quarterly guide (*What's on*) on events in South Tipperary and also a website  www.whatsonintipp.ie. It includes listings and full details for all arts and cultural events including music, theatre, dance, visual art, handcraft, festivals, heritage programmes — in fact anything that comes under the umbrella of cultural activity and interest.

Further Information

The Arts Office
North Tipperary County Council
 (067) 44852 or 44860
 artsoffice@northtippcoco.ie
www.tipperarynorth.ie/arts

The Arts Office
South Tipperary County Council
 (052) 6134565
 sally.oleary@southtippcoco.ie
www.southtippcoco.ie/arts

South Tipperary Cultural
Providers Group
c/o South Tipperary County Museum
 (052) 6134562
 editorwhatson@southtippcoco.ie
www.whatsonintipp.ie

Other Recreational Activities

Children

Many of the community groups, centres and organisations featured in this booklet cater for children of various age groups. In addition to these organised activities, there are other, perhaps more informal opportunities for newcomers to meet other children and parents.

Playgrounds

Playgrounds can now be found in all towns and in many rural communities. The Irish government has invested heavily in the development of playgrounds in recent years. Many of the newer playgrounds are divided into sections for younger (under 6 years of age) and older children (6-12 years) and you will find a variety of play equipment. A lot of municipal playgrounds (those owned by Town Councils) are located in public parks. They tend to be gated and locked at night. The use of outdoor playgrounds is free.

Indoor Play Centres

Indoor play centres are a commercial business, which means that entrance fees apply per hour of use. They offer indoor play zones for different age groups of children and in many cases cater for special occasions, such as children's birthday parties. Some indoor play centres also hosts parent and toddler groups.

Summer Camps

When living in Ireland, you will find that many activities take place in line with the school term, meaning that activities die down during school breaks, especially around Easter, during summer and at the end of the year for Christmas.

Particularly during the long summer school break, block activities for children are offered under the term 'summer camp'. They are workshops run over several days that address various areas of interest (such as sporting, creative, academic interests) or provide opportunities for children simply to play. The GAA Cúl Camps, for example, provide boys and girls – between the ages of 7 and 13 – with an action-packed and fun-filled week of activity during the summer holidays which revolves around Gaelic Games.

However, many other organisations, including childcare facilities, arts and cultural centres and specific sports groups also run summer camps to keep children busy during the school holidays.



Physical Activity

Leisure Centres

If you are interested in physical activities, but don't want to join a community-based sports group or organisation, you can use commercial sports and leisure facilities, most of which offer short- and medium-term memberships that give you the freedom to decide when you want to use them.

In addition to commercially run gyms, there are a number of community-based sports and recreation centres and swimming pools in County Tipperary which combine a vast range of health, fitness and sports facilities and cater for families and individuals of all ages and fitness levels. The main centres are:

- The Canon Hayes Recreation Centre in Tipperary.
- The Sean Kelly Swimming & Sports Centre in Carrick-on-Suir
- Clonmel Swimming Pool
- Sean Treacy Memorial Pool, Tipperary
- Ferryhouse Sports Complex, Clonmel
- Duneske Sports & Leisure Complex, Cahir
- Roscrea Leisure Centre
- Thurles Leisure Centre
- Nenagh Leisure Centre

Contact details for these centres are included in the directory at the back of the booklet.

Golf Clubs

Golf is a very popular sport in Ireland and is not perceived to be as elitist a sport as in other countries. Most golf clubs are owned by their members or

else are part of commercial businesses (e.g. attached to hotels). Some golf clubs charge an entrance fee in addition to an annual subscription fee – however, most do not. Golf clubs and their members are regulated by the Golfing Union of Ireland.

 www.gui.ie

Angling

Angling is also a popular sport. County Tipperary is part of the area governed by the Southern Regional Fisheries Board which is one of the largest fisheries regions. It is the proud home to some of the best trout, salmon, coarse and sea angling in Ireland.

For the game angler there is the famous River Blackwater and its many salmon, the upper reaches and the main channel of the Suir River for the trout angler and many streams for those who pursue sea-trout. The coarse angler has many waters to choose from; the Barrow Line has many bream and hybrids and the Blackwater is justly regarded as a good roach and dace fishery.

In Ireland you do not need a licence to fish for trout, coarse species or in the sea. However, if you intend to fish for salmon or seatrout you must have a State Salmon and Sea Trout Fishing Licence, which can be obtained from the Southern Regional Fisheries Board.

 www.cfb.ie

Equestrian Facilities

Equestrian facilities are often family owned and commercially run. Stables and riding schools typically include facilities such as fence cross-country courses, outdoor and/or indoor ménages and cater for every rider, whether novice or experienced

regardless of age. Many equestrian facilities also cater for tourists, offering accommodation and guided tours along country roads. Riding schools and equestrian centres in Ireland are regulated by AIRE (Association of Irish Riding Establishments).

 www.aire.ie

Directory

Local Newspapers

Midland Tribune

Main Street, Roscrea

☎ (0505) 23747

✉ roscrea@midlandtribune.ie

www.midlandtribune.ie

Nationalist Newspaper

Queen Street, Clonmel

☎ (052) 6172500

✉ mheverin@nationalist.ie

www.nationalist.ie

Nenagh Guardian

13 Summerhill, Nenagh

☎ (067) 31214

✉ info@nenaghguardian.ie

www.nenaghguardian.ie

South Tipp Today

Upper Irishtown, Clonmel

☎ (052) 6127342

✉ editorial@southtipptoday.ie

Tipperary Star

Friar Street, Thurles

☎ (0504) 29100

✉ info@tipperarystar.ie

www.tipperarystar.ie

Local Radio Stations

Tipp FM Radio

Premier Broadcast Centre, Unit 4A,
Gurtnafleur Business Park, Clonmel

☎ (052) 6125299

0818 464 464 (Requests)

✉ reception@tippfm.com

www.tippfm.com

Tipperary Mid West Community Radio

St. Michael Street, Tipperary

☎ (062) 52555

✉ tippmidwestradio@eircom.net

www.tippmidwestradio.com

Rail Services

www.irishrail.ie

Thurles Railway Station

☎ (0504) 21733

Limerick Junction Railway Station

☎ (062) 51824

Birdhill Railway Station

☎ (061) 379118

Cahir Railway Station

Dublin Road, Cahir

Carrick-on-Suir Railway Station

Cregg Road, Carrick-on-Suir

☎ (051) 640044

Clonmel Railway Station

Thomas Street, Clonmel

☎ (052) 6121982

Cloughjordan Railway Station

Templemore Road, Cloughjordan

Nenagh Railway Station

☎ (067) 31232

Roscrea Railway Station

Castleholding, Roscrea

☎ (0505) 21823

Templemore Railway Station

☎ (0504) 31342

Tipperary Railway Station

Station Road, Tipperary Town

☎ (062) 51206

Bus Éireann

☎ (061) 313333 (Limerick)
(051) 879000

✉ info@buseireann.ie

www.buseireann.ie

Rural Transport Services

Ring-a-Link

Unit 2, Abbey Business Centre, Abbey Street, Kilkenny

☎ (056) 7790260/1890 424141

✉ ringalink@eircom.net

www.ringalink.ie

Borrisokane Rural Transport Initiative

Old Church, Borrisokane

☎ (067) 27088/(087) 9613580

✉ borrisokanecommunitytransport@eircom.net

Kilcommon/Upperchurch Rural Transport Initiative

Kilcommon, Thurles

☎ (0504) 54555/(087) 1229041

✉ uplandtransport@gmail.com

Resource Centres

Millennium Family Resource Centre

New Birmingham, Thurles

☎ (052) 915 7992

✉ clarecashman@mfric.ie

www.mfric.ie

Spafield Family Resource Centre

Old Road, Cashel

☎ (062) 63622

✉ gdestafort@spafieldfrc.ie

Three Drives Family Resource Centre

22/23 Greenane Drive, Tipperary

☎ (062) 80831

✉ threedrivesfrc@eircom.net

Clonmel Community Resource Centre

Kickham Lodge, Kickham Street,

Clonmel

☎ (052) 6129143

✉ ccrc@eircom.net

www.clonmelresourcecentre.com

Nano Nagle Community Resource Centre

Clancy House, Greenside,

Carrick-on-Suir

☎ (051) 642418

✉ carrickresource@eircom.net

Knockanrawley Resource Centre

Knockanrawley, Tipperary

☎ (062) 52688

✉ knockanrawley@eircom.net

www.knockanrawley.ie

Thurles Action for Community Development

Kickham Street, Thurles

☎ (0504) 90666

✉ tacd@eircom.net

www.tacd.ie

Suir CDP

12 New Street, Carrick-on-Suir

☎ (051) 641066

✉ suircdp@eircom.net

Volunteer Centres

South Tipperary Volunteer Centre

Wilderness Youth and Community Centre, Wilderness Grove, Clonmel

☎ (052) 6187342

✉ info@volunteersouthtipp.ie

www.volunteersouthtipp.ie

Community & Voluntary Fora

South Tipperary Community & Voluntary Forum

The Wilderness Youth and Community Centre, Wilderness Grove, Clonmel

☎ (052) 6180699

✉ southtippforum@eircom.net

North Tipperary Community and Voluntary Association (CAVA)

Civic Offices, Limerick Road, Nenagh

☎ (067) 44648

✉ info@cava.ie

www.cava.ie

Sports Partnerships

South Tipperary Sports Partnership

Civic Offices, Cashel

☎ (062) 64737

✉ info@stsp.ie

www.stsp.ie

North Tipperary Sports Partnership

c/o Lifelong Learning Service, Martyrs' Road, Nenagh

☎ (067) 43604

✉ info@ntsp.ie

www.ntsp.ie

Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA)

Tipperary GAA Office

County Board Secretary, c/o Lár na Páirce, Slievenamon Road, Thurles

☎ (0504) 22702

✉ tippgaa@eircom.net

www.tipperary.gaa.ie

Libraries

Tipperary Libraries Headquarters

Castle Avenue, Thurles

☎ (0504) 21555

✉ info@tipperarylibraries.ie

www.tipperarylibraries.ie

Borrisokane Library

Main Street, Borrisokane

☎ (067) 27199

Cahir Library

The Square, Cahir

☎ (052) 7442075

Carrick-on-Suir Library

Fair Green, Carrick-on-Suir

☎ (051) 640591

Cashel Library

Friar Street, Cashel

☎ (062) 63825

✉ cashel@tipperarylibraries.ie

Clonmel Library

Emmet Street, Clonmel

☎ (052) 6124545

✉ clonmel@tipperarylibraries.ie

Cloughjordan Library

Main Street, Cloughjordan

☎ (0505) 42425

Killenaule Library

Slieveardagh Centre, River Street,
Killenaule

☎ (052) 9157906

Nenagh Library

O'Rahilly Street, Nenagh

☎ (067) 34404

✉ nenagh@tipperaryllibraries.ie

Roscrea Library

Birr Road, Roscrea

☎ (0505) 22032

✉ roscrea@tipperaryllibraries.ie

Templemore Library

Old Mill Court, Templemore

☎ (0504) 32555/32556

✉ templemore@tipperaryllibraries.ie

Thurles Library

The Source, Cathedral Street, Thurles

☎ (0504) 29720

✉ thurles@tipperaryllibraries.ie

Tipperary Library

Davis Street, Tipperary

☎ (062) 51761

✉ tipperary@tipperaryllibraries.ie

Tipperary Studies

The Source, Cathedral Street, Thurles

☎ (0504) 29278

✉ studies@tipperaryllibraries.ie

Arts and Cultural Centres

Brú Ború Cultural Centre

Rock Lane, Cashel

☎ (062) 61122

✉ bruboru@comhaltas.com

Nenagh Arts Centre

Town Hall, Banba Square, Nenagh

☎ (067) 34900

✉ manager@nenagharts.com

www.nenagharts.com

Source Arts Centre

Cathedral Street, Thurles

☎ (0504) 90340

(0504) 90204 (Bookings)

✉ info@sourcearts.ie

boxoffice@sourcearts.ie (Bookings)

www.thesourceartscentre.ie

South Tipperary Arts Centre

Nelson Street, Clonmel

☎ (052) 6127877

✉ reception@southtipparts.com

www.southtipparts.com

South Tipperary County Museum

Mick Delahunty Square, Clonmel

☎ (052) 6134550

✉ museum@southtippcoco.ie

Tipperary Excel Arts & Cultural Centre

Mitchell Street, Tipperary

☎ (062) 80520

✉ manager@tipperary-excel.com

www.tipperary-excel.com

Arts and Cultural Festivals

Bealtaine Festival

Senior Executive Librarian, Tipperary
Libraries, Castle Avenue, Thurles

☎ (0504) 20109

✉ eobrien@tipperaryllibraries.ie

Cashel Arts Fest

✉ cashelartsfest@eircom.net

www.cashelartsfest.com

Clonmel Song Contest

Ardfinnan, Clonmel

☎ (052) 7466320/(087) 2102021

✉ info@clonmelnationalsongcontest.com

www.clonmelnationalsongcontest.com

Cloughjordan Festival

Box Office, Sheelagh na Gig,

Cloughjordan

☎ (0505) 42123

✉ cloughjordan.festival@gmail.com

www.cloughjordanfestival.com

Dromineer Literary Festival

☎ (087) 6908099

✉ pat.kelly6@gmail.com

www.dromineerliteraryfestival.ie

Féile Brian Ború

Killaloe/Ballina Community and Family
Resource Centre, Main Street, Killaloe

☎ (086) 3586293

✉ brianboru@killaloe.ie

www.feilebrianboru.killaloe.ie

Fethard Medieval Festival

☎ (052) 6123402

✉ history@fethard.com

www.fethardfestival.com

SongFest.ie

Ardfinnan, Clonmel

☎ (052) 7466320/(087) 2102021

www.songfest.ie

Spleodar Festival

Nenagh Arts Centre, Town Hall, Banba
Square, Nenagh

☎ (067) 34900

✉ manager@nenagharts.com

www.nenagharts.com/spleodar/

Terryglass Arts Festival

☎ (087) 2181663/(067) 44860

✉ info@terryglassartsfestival.ie

www.terryglassartsfestival.ie

The Clancy Brothers Musical Festival

Festival Office, Clancy House, Green
Side, Carrick-on-Suir

☎ (051) 645588

✉ enquiries@clancybrothersfestival.org

www.clancybrothersfestival.org

The Junction Festival

Central House, 20 Parnell Street,
Clonmel

☎ (052) 6129339/(086) 8225054

✉ info@junctionfestival.com

www.junctionfestival.com

Tipperariana Book Fair

☎ (052) 6123402

✉ bookfair@fethard.com

The Platform TV

Ardfinnan, Clonmel

☎ (052) 7466320/(087) 2102021

www.theplatformtv.com

Arts Services

North Tipperary Arts Office

North Tipperary County Council, Civic
Offices, Nenagh

☎ (067) 44852/44860

✉ mscott@northtippcoco.ie

www.northtipperaryarts.org

South Tipperary Arts Officer

County Museum, Mick Delahunty
Square, Clonmel

☎ (052) 6134565

✉ sally.oleary@southtippcoco.ie

www.southtippcoco.ie/arts

South Tipperary Cultural Providers Group

c/o South Tipperary County Museum,
Mick Delahunty Square, Clonmel

☎ (052) 6134562

✉ editorwhatson@southtippcoco.ie

www.whatsonintipp.ie

Community Leisure Centres

Canon Hayes Recreation Centre

Avondale, Tipperary

☎ (062) 52022

✉ info@tipperarysportscentre.com

www.tipperarysportscentre.com

Clonmel Swimming Pool

Mick Delahunty Square, Clonmel

☎ (052) 6121972

✉ michael.butler@southtippcoco.ie

www.southtippcoco.ie/en/clonmelpool

Duneske Sports and Leisure Complex

Farranlahassery, Cahir

☎ (052) 7445517

✉ duneske@cahir.ie

www.duneske.ie

Ferryhouse Sports Complex

Waterford Road, Clonmel

☎ (052) 6183000

Nenagh Leisure Centre

Dublin Road, Nenagh

☎ (067) 31788

Roscrea Leisure Centre

Old Dublin Road, Roscrea

☎ (0505) 23822

✉ info@roscrealc.ie

www.roscrealc.ie

Seán Kelly Swimming & Sports Centre

Tinvane, Carrick-on-Suir

☎ (051) 640955

✉ seankellysc@gmail.com

www.seankellysportscentre.ie

Seán Treacy Memorial Pool

Bank Place, Tipperary Town

☎ (062) 51806

✉ brendan.odwyer@southtippcoco.ie

www.southtippcoco.ie/tippool

Thurles Leisure Centre

Cathedral Street, Thurles

☎ (0504) 58640

✉ info@thurleslc.ie

www.thurleslc.ie



Department of Social and Family



Citizens Information



Executive Centre The Mall, James Street
North Tipperary County Council



South Tipperary County Council



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