

# SUMMER *people*

## ..... Lanesboro/Ballyleague

# PAINTING THE TOWN RED!

## Ballyleague Village Renewal group in Tidy towns drive

Community spirit is alive and well in the Shannonside village of Ballyleague – where derelict buildings have been painted and acres of grass mown by volunteers from the local area in the run-up to the judging for the national Tidy Towns competition this summer.

Under the enthusiastic chairmanship of local resident Denis Dunne, the Ballyleague Village Renewal committee set out a programme of work last February – aimed at making their community look tidier and further enhancing the already scenic beauty of the public areas alongside the Shannon river and Lough Ree for the summer of 2010 and beyond.

The programme of work included an ambitious plan to tackle grass-cutting duties in areas along the verge of the Roscommon and Strokestown roads out of the village.

The Roscommon road, in particular, presented a severe challenge to what is a voluntary committee but thanks to the energy and enthusiasm of over thirty people the job has been successfully completed and anyone driving from Roscommon into Ballyleague in recent weeks will have seen the excellent condition of the roadside from the hill of Clonadra all the way into the village past the Moher road junction, Ray's Filling Station and onto the picturesque St. Faithleachs's GAA grounds. In addition, the roadside grass has been cut on a regular basis opposite Ballyleague National school and along the Strokestown road from the village centre to Shannon Grove. A beautiful array of new flower stands have also been introduced in key locations around the village place name signs and a special effort has been made to give Ballyleague a fantastic

floral look.

One of the key projects undertaken by Denis Dunne and his hard-working committee in the last two weeks has been the re-painting of the now derelict Sliabh Ban Hotel building in the heart of the village. The committee decide that this progressive power-washing and painting plan should go-ahead to give the community the very best chance in this year's Tidy Town Awards.

The Village Renewal committee also worked carefully with Waterways Ireland to paint fencing and all the picnic seats and tables in the public marina in Ballyleague – not to mention the old paddling pool along the river banks and a number of other public signs and structures in the area.

The committee has also undertaken work on a new perimeter fence for some of the vacant sites opposite St. Mary's Terrace, removed ivy and cleaned up the vacant house at the bridge, strimmed the grass and cut back the young growing trees in the public park area alongside the marina.

Indeed the attention to detail given to some of the green finger activity with the grass and the trees has been singled out for special mention by dozens of tourists visiting Ballyleague in recent weeks.

Ballyleague Village Renewal committee extended their thanks this week to everybody in the community who has so far come out to help the voluntary effort – and especially Pat Connor, Niall Donlon and their colleagues in Roscommon County Council who have played such a key part in the maintenance of the grass in the public area along the river Shannon banks.

A special community action day of painting and grass-cutting is planned for Saturday week July 10<sup>th</sup> at 10 am. All



Members of Ballyleague Village Renewal Committee pictured on Tuesday evening. Pic: Andrew Fox.

local people are asked to meet on that day at Ballyleague Hall where an action plan will be agreed for all volunteers pres-

ent. Please bring your green gloves and any grass-cutting equipment at your disposal.

### Special collection for new ride-on lawnmower

Cutting the grass on the roadside in and out of the village of Ballyleague on a regular basis is a mammoth task and recently the village renewal committee decided to purchase a brand new ride-on lawnmower to assist it in the voluntary work that is being done to make the place look clear and tidy for the whole community. Next weekend the Village Renewal committee will host a special church gate collection to help pay for the new mower. Residents and volunteers from the area will be in place at all masses on Saturday July 17<sup>th</sup> and Sunday July 18<sup>th</sup> outside the Church of the Holy Rosary in Ballyleague and are appealing for your financial support.



Members of Ballyleague Tidy Towns pictured on Tuesday evening last. Pic: Andrew Fox.

### Plans for the future outlined

A new and exciting development of a footpath/board walk type development for pedestrians along the River Shannon banks in Ballyleague is just one of the ambitious new projects that the Ballyleague Village Renewal committee is presently working on.

Recently the committee met with Roscommon County Council and formulated plans for the development which is intended to replace the existing metal fencing that has fallen into a state of disrepair from the south side of the bridge past the old swimming pool down to the new marina.

The project has already been submitted to the Roscommon Integrated Development Company for consideration and will hopefully get the green light for funding in the coming weeks. The village renewal committee is also examining ways in which the River Shannon bridge can be enhanced as part of Christmas lighting plans next year and is also working on a variety of other projects in the area.

After several meetings between Denis Dunne and his village renewal committee and Roscommon County Council executives earlier this year a commitment has been given that the main road through the village will be re-surfaced and this work will be carried out with a new surface on both lanes in the coming weeks.



Members of Ballyleague Tidy Towns (l-r) Denis Dunne, Gerry Thompson, JP Kilcline, Ciara Browne, Alan Hanly, Margaret Thompson, Detta Cox, Gerry O'Reilly, Annie Egan, Tom Harrison, Jimmy Hudson and Mary Grealy. Pic: Andrew Fox.