



AUTUMN 2011



It was very satisfying to see Newcastle achieving third place in Wicklow in its Tidy Towns category. It was beaten by Aughrim and Delgany (by only two points). The judging took place early in June and there was a lot of additional work done over the next couple of months. The adjudicator praised the fine landscaping, the natural amenities and wildlife and the the tidy presentation of the village.

Newcastle also won the award for Built Heritage in the Pure Mile competition which was organised by the Uplands Council. The adjudicators noted the great effort made by the owners of the entrances on the route from the roundabout to the village and the wealth of historical and cultural associations which had been brought to their attention.

The most important historical building in the village is Newcastle Fort. The Residents Association is interested in preserving the castle and has arranged two inspections by specialists in conservation during the year. The Archeology School of UCD has also expressed an interest in visiting the site. All of this activity is directed towards making the case for directing some of the scarce resources available for heritage conservation to Newcastle.



The Biological Society of Trinity College carried out a survey of plants in the Biodiversity Area to the left of the Oratory in August. Thirty eight different species were identified and one unusual plant, the Slender Trefoil, was highlighted. Various recommendations were made in relation to the management of the area so as to enhance its value to the local schoolchildren and the general public. It is intended to carry out a further survey in the spring.

The Newcastle Community Centre recently decided to submit an application to Wicklow County Council for funding to completely upgrade the tennis courts beside the Community Centre so as to have three tennis courts and to accommodate five a side soccer and basketball.

After the excellent talk on Wicklow's Trees during Heritage Week, there was a discussion about the possibility of forming an Historical Society in Newcastle. Everyone who is interested is invited to the Community Centre on Monday 10th October at 8 pm when possible models will be discussed.

The Joint AGM of the Residents Association and the Newcastle Community Centre is to take place in the Community Centre on Monday 17th October at 7.30pm. All residents of Newcastle are welcome.