

streamsapes | catchments

The Clooneigh River in Kiltreevan, Co. Roscommon

image: Where the Clooneigh River meets Lough Ree, courtesy of www.spicydogmedia.ie/

An Eilbhe bheag is forgheal uisce
tionscnaíonn a sruth le claon gan leisce
as tobar tonnach buinneghlas aoibhinn
i mbruach Chúil Thaidhg
na bhriarach álainn.

The little Clooneigh River whose water is truly bright commences her stream with an eager inclination from a flowing green-gushing pleasant well at the edge of Coolteige of the beautiful grassland.

Extract from 'Príomhshruth Éireann' by Mícheál Ó Braonáin, Lisgobban, Roscommon from 1794, which traces the River Shannon & its tributaries from Cavan to Kerry, mentioning 350 place names.

The Clooneigh River

From Mícheál Ó Braonáin's "flowing green-gushing pleasant well at the edge of Coolteige", the Clooneigh River gathers tributaries from many sources before flowing into Lough Ree on its western shore. These streams meander through and provide sustenance for our landscapes, our farms, and our villages. We as a community want to learn how we can best care for these waters and the rich biodiversity that they support. Kiltveevan Tidy Towns has been working with Kiltveevan National School and the wider community to become 'Water Wise', and these efforts have been supported by LAWPRO, Roscommon County Council and many others. The School and the wider Community have now benefitted from StreamScapes workshops & field trips (pictured here), which have assisted us in better understanding instream and riparian ecology, and how our Community can participate in achieving high status

waters in our Clooneigh Priority Area for Action (PAA), one of 190 water bodies nationally which have been designated for restoration to pristine quality.

This follows on from works we've done previously in Cloonlarge, a section of the Lough Ree Special Area of Conservation (SAC). As turf cutting has ceased in most areas here, under the Peatlands Community Engagement Scheme (PCES) we have developed walkways and developed signage regarding the SAC, Biodiversity, local history, arts and heritage. This is a dynamic, ongoing project which depends upon all of the community! Contact us for more information, or to get involved in these projects.

For more information email kiltveevantidytowns@gmail.com or chat to any member of the committee. New volunteers are needed to support our work in the community. You can join any time.



The Kiltveevan River forms part of the Clooneigh River Catchment and is part of our living heritage. It is home to a wide range of wildlife including Trout, Stickleback, Minnow, Perch, Crayfish, Brook Lamprey and Eel. Some of the birds associated with the river include Kingfisher, Grey Heron, Pied Wagtail, Greg Wagtail and the Little Grebe. The birds and fish take advantage of the different macro invertebrates living in the river including freshwater snails, freshwater shrimp, and mayfly nymphs. The banks of the river are covered with many wild flowers and shrubs evident throughout the year. These include wild rose, crab apples, meadowsweet, and ragged robin to name but a few, with these in turn supporting the many pollinators.

Best Practice Guidelines

Here in the Clooneigh River Catchment we are dependent upon clean water coming to us from upstream, while other folk, as well as wildlife, depend on the water we discharge being as clean and clear as possible. Think of our sinks, showers, toilets, and washing machines as tributaries to our local river! Outside, on our farms and in our gardens, we also have a huge capacity to help or hinder water and habitat quality. Here are a few tips to lessen our impacts and ensure that we do our bit to protect our local waters & wildlife:

- Avoid any Cleaning Products which contain Phosphates or Bleach – they spoil the good work of your sewage treatment/septic tank, leading to aquatic pollution – use eco-friendly products or learn how to make your own citrus- and vinegar-based cleaning agents*!
- Any common Household Product labelled ‘Hazard’ or ‘Poison’ or ‘Toxic’ or ‘Irritant’ must be treated as Toxic Waste – avoid using them but if you must dispose of them, follow Local Authority Guidelines, and never rinse down sink or into drains; this includes Paint, Antifreeze, Drain Cleaners, Air Fresheners, Carpet & Upholstery Cleaners, Toilet-water ‘Fresheners’...they’re all potentially hazardous and harmful to wildlife!!!

- Keep your garden low-maintenance and low water-dependent; use native plants & trees to establish suitable local habitats and assist insects/pollinators, birds, mammals & fish.
- Avoid pesticides, herbicides, and application of synthetic fertilisers – they can be harmful to Biodiversity and Soil Health.
- Whether digging your garden, preparing a building site, or ploughing a field, remember that Silts & Sediments are one of the biggest enemies of Aquatic Biodiversity (particularly sensitive species like salmon, trout, and Pearl Mussels)...contain silts and don’t allow them to reach watercourses!
- Allow for healthy riparian zones along streams & rivers...these help buffer the effects of fertilisers and silts, and enable a flourishing of riverside vegetation.
- Take an interest in Nature and expand your awareness: there are loads of groups dedicated to observing & learning about Birds, Bats, Trees & Vegetation, Angling Clubs, etc. Awareness leads to pride in local biodiversity, learning enables you to become a steward of your landscape!

* Learn how to make your own eco-friendly Household Cleaning agents: <https://www.rte.ie/lifestyle/living/2020/0422/1134147-10-cleaning-hacks-with-vinegar-lemons-and-bicarb/>



APPRECIATION IS EXPRESSED TO

Photography: Susan O'Connor, Caitriona Dolan, Spicy Dog Media, Eileen Fahey, Rauri Maguire, Vicky Nolan
Design: Jenny Dempsey Print: Rymar Print Dublin

Kilteevan Tidy Towns would like to thank the following for their support for our Water, Environment and Heritage Projects 2017-2023: Kilteevan Community Development Group; Kilteevan National

School; St Joseph's GAA Club; Fr Sean Beirne & Elphin Diocese; Kilteevan Graveyard Committee; Local Landowners; Conor Ruane, Catherine Seale Duggan & Bernie White, LAWPRO; Oisín Naughton & John Devaney, IFI; Laura Connolly, Chris Peppiatt, & Niall Cribbon, NPWS; Gerard Hannon, Caitlin Conneely, Nollaig Feeney, Jonathan Jones, Annette Donlan, John Mockler & Neal Geraghty Roscommon Co Co; Peatland Management Unit Wexford; Community Wetlands Forum; Connecting Communities with Peatlands; Stephanie O'Toole & Rauri Maguire, StreamScapes Teaching Staff

