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KILKENNY PERSON OF THE YEAR AWARDS honour members of communities who inspire with their efforts and tireless work. They recognise winners across eight different categories. This event was held on Friday November 4th in The Newpark Hotel, Kilkenny. Piltown Community Enterprise was presented with the Rural Innovation Award by Brian Keyes, Editor of Kilkenny People and member of Kilkenny Person of the Year Committee

Welcome to our 2016 Winter newsletter

The Board of Piltown Community Enterprise (PCE) is ending the year on a very positive note. We are delighted the way our project is progressing and how the parish of Piltown is developing and improving through the hard work and dedication of a caring community. We are very happy to be recognised locally and nationally. (More details later.) PCE are pleased to say that the three units in The Old Creamery Enterprise Centre are now occupied and the businesses therein are up and running.

Our third unit is now occupied by Lyons Fitness Principles. It is run by Paul Lyons and Grainne Gault. Paul is a qualified fitness instructor and is operating on a personal instructor basis with small groups of up to 6 people. For further information contact 087-6280987. We wish them every success with their business.



ANTIQUES ROADSHOW was held in Bessborough House, Kildalton College, Piltown on Sunday October 2nd. Over 300 people attended with items for

valuation and many more came as spectators to simply enjoy the day.

Although the majority of items shown were not of great financial value, people got the chance to hear the background story of their item and to learn where and when their treasure had been manufactured. A story to tell their families.

There were a few 'finds' however, which Sheppard's Auctioneers are confidentially investigating further.

The fabulous weather, the beautiful venue and the opportunity to relax in such a wonderful setting as Bessborough House, resulted in the day becoming a community social gathering which was enjoyed by all. The event was scheduled for 11am-5pm but it was 8.30 before the final people left the premises.

A **CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR** was held in the Community Centre on Sunday November 20th. There were thirty-seven stalls selling a range of products including books, knitwear, pastries, cakes, jewellery, vintage clothes, leather bags, paintings, juices, Christmas decorations, pet balloons, make-up etc. The day included many events for children: The Piltown Children's Choir entertained the people under the guidance of Catherine Vahey. Also Santa Claus dropped in and spent time with all the children.





KILKENNY CHAMBER BUSINESS AWARDS was held in the Lyrath Estate Hotel on Saturday Nov 19th. Iverk Show. Over 250 nominations were received which was subsequently narrowed down to 46. Piltown was well represented with 3 local finalists: A Slice of Heaven (Mary McEvoy), The Iverk Show and O Shea Farms. The latter received the Food and Drink Producer of the Year Award. T Butler Engineering (Fiddown), overall winners in 2015, sponsored and presented the top award on the night

BLAS NA HEIREANN, THE IRISH FOOD AWARDS is the biggest competition for quality Irish produce on the island of Ireland. It recognises and rewards the very best of Irish food & drink and the passionate people who make it.



Last year over 2,500 Irish products were entered into the competition to win Gold, Silver and Bronze Awards in over 120 food and drink categories as well as key awards such as Supreme Champion and Best Artisan Producer.

We are delighted that two of these winners are from our own parish. Mileeven Fine Foods received an award for Best in Kilkenny and their pure Irish honey.



Cakeface Pastry's award was for Best Famers Market in Kilkenny.

Congratulations to both Mileeven and Cakeface.

Storytelling with Sheridan Brady and a "Make a Christmas Decoration Competition" added further enjoyment to the day. It was well supported and many of the stallholders are already asking about next year's event.



In June Piltown Community Enterprise was nominated by Kilkenny County Council to represent Kilkenny in the **IPB Pride of Place Awards** which is a nationwide event celebrating community development. Our presentation was made to the judges in the Community Centre on Wednesday August 17th followed by an extensive tour of the village.

We then went forward to the annual Pride of Place Awards Ceremony on Saturday (26 November) where Piltown Community Enterprise received a Runners Up Award in Category 7 - Community Business Enterprise Initiative.

The judges were really impressed with the project, the people they met, and the impact of the project and the work being done.

Piltown Community Enterprise, Stoneyford (also an award recipient) and Castlecomer Discovery Park were chosen by the County Council to represent Kilkenny.



The winners of the Pride of Place awards, known affectionately by many as the 'Community Oscars', were announced at the special gala event in Belfast Waterfront Hall in front of an audience of approximately 1000 guests and VIPs with many more people tuning in on-line to watch the live broadcast of the ceremony.



Communities were represented by 103 groups from the 32 counties who were divided into 11 categories. Now in its 14th year, the all-island Pride of Place Awards promotes and celebrates the best in community development.



Piltown was selected as one of the four local towns that are set to benefit under the Village Renewal Scheme 2016/2017. Members of Piltown Community Enterprise, Piltown National School and Piltown Tidy Towns attended a meeting/workshop with Kilkenny County Council in September 2016 to submit an application.

Each village will receive in the region of €112,000 towards the upgrading of their area. The details and conditions have yet to be received from Kilkenny County Council. The other villages are: Urlingford, Kells, and Ballyhale

***MERRY CHRISTMAS AND
A HAPPY NEW YEAR
TO EVERYONE***