



more to
Monaghan



MONAGHAN TOURISM E-ZINE

Monday 22nd June 2026



Welcome to the 2026 Summer Edition of our Monaghan Tourism newsletter!

The Tourism Unit within Monaghan County Council is delighted to share the latest updates, initiatives and exciting highlights from across our beautiful county.

As we move into the busy summer season, our focus remains on promoting Monaghan as a vibrant and welcoming destination, while continuing to support both emerging and established tourism providers. We are committed to enhancing our tourism infrastructure and delivering memorable visitor experiences across the county.

This edition brings exciting news, including the official launch of Black Island, Lough Muckno - a development that will further strengthen Monaghan's outdoor recreation offering.

We are also pleased to highlight the return of our popular Scenic Sessions series, showcasing the unique landscapes, culture and talent that make Monaghan truly special.

In addition, we are introducing the brand-new Monaghan Masterclasses - an innovative initiative designed to share skills, stories and authentic experiences, further enriching our tourism product.

Progress continues across a number of key projects, reflecting our ongoing investment in tourism infrastructure and our commitment to developing high-quality amenities throughout the county.

Your support remains vital, and together we can continue to strengthen and grow Monaghan's tourism offering.

Thank you for your ongoing partnership and commitment.

Enjoy the Summer edition of our newsletter!



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Recreational Enhancements at Black Island, Lough Muckno

Earlier this month, Monaghan County Council proudly celebrated the official opening of the newly enhanced recreational facilities at Black Island, Lough Muckno. Officiated by Minister Dara Calleary TD, the event marked an important milestone in the continued development of the county's outdoor recreation offering. The enhancements have transformed Black Island into a more accessible and engaging space, creating new opportunities for both visitors and locals to enjoy the natural beauty of Lough Muckno. The area is already proving to be a key addition to Monaghan's tourism offering, with strong interest expected throughout the summer season and beyond.



ITOA Event - January 2026

Monaghan successfully hosted the Incoming Tour Operators Association (ITOA) AGM in January 2026, with approximately 80 members visiting the Peace Campus as part of the programme. The group experienced a curated showcase of Monaghan tourism, including a guided museum tour, presentations from around 20 local providers, and a cultural jiving session, leaving a strong impression of the county's diverse tourism offering.



Business & Tourism Awards

Earlier this year, the Monaghan Business & Tourism Awards 2026 celebrated the very best of enterprise, innovation and tourism across the county. Delivered in partnership with The Anglo-Celt, the awards recognised businesses of all sizes and sectors, including tourism and hospitality.



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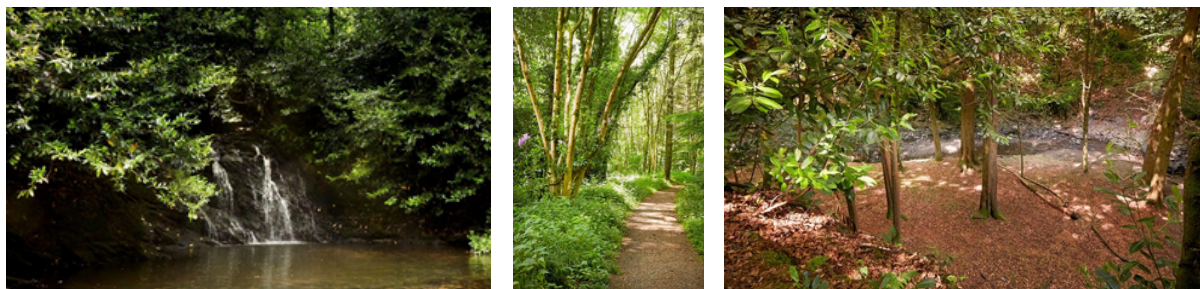
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Project Updates

Castleshane Forest

Funding of €151,000 has been secured under the ORIS 2024/25 programme to support enhancement works at Castleshane Forest. Initial plans are progressing well, with proposed improvements aimed at enhancing the visitor experience and accessibility within this popular outdoor amenity. Works are expected to commence later in the year, subject to scheduling and site conditions.

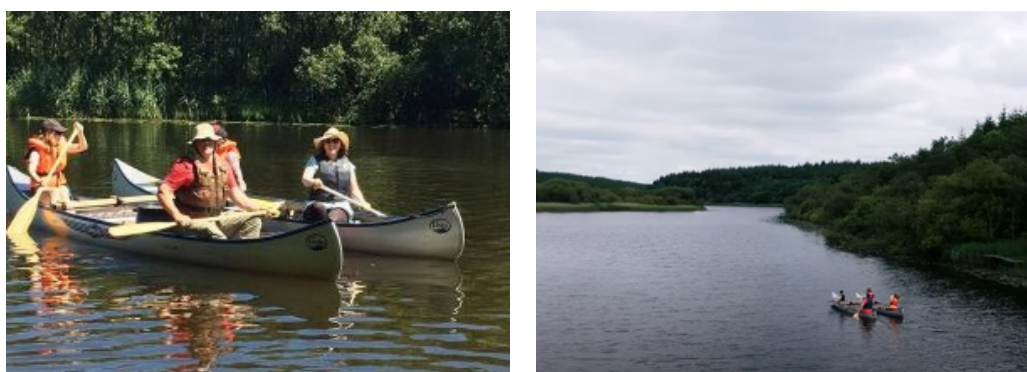


Old Cross Square Motorhome Site

Funding of €300,000 has been secured under the Town & Village Renewal Scheme to support the development of a new motorhome stopover site at Old Cross Square. The project will provide dedicated spaces and facilities, enhancing services for visitors exploring the county. Following the tender process, works are expected to commence shortly, with completion anticipated later in the year.

Dromore River Blueway

Progress continues on the development of the Dromore River Blueway, with steady advancement across the project in recent months. Plans are in place to enhance key access points along the 12km route, including improvements to slipways, signage, information points and parking facilities, all aimed at creating a high-quality experience for users. The project remains on track, with completion anticipated in 2027 and will be a significant addition to Monaghan's growing outdoor recreation offering.



Mullaghmat Cycle Trails Project

Funding of €50,000 has been secured under the ORIS 2024/25 programme to support the development of new cycle trail proposals at Mullaghmat Forest. Initial concept designs are currently in progress, with environmental assessments underway to inform the next stages of the project. It is anticipated that the project will progress to planning later this year, marking an exciting step forward in expanding Monaghan's outdoor activity offering.



Festival & Events Funding

The Tourism Festival Funding Schemes 2026 have now been advertised and allocated. A total of €15,000 has been provided by Monaghan County Council under Scheme 1, supporting the following nine festivals:

- Ballybay Christmas Market and Festival of Lights
- The Gathering at Brehon Brewhouse
- Clones Development Society (various events)
- Erica's Fairy Forest Family Day
- Inniskeen Road July Evening
- McCarville Family Reunion
- Monaghan Street Food Festival
- The Welcome Home Festival, Carrickroe
- Treinfhir Clan Gathering

In addition, €10,000 has been secured from Fáilte Ireland under Scheme 2 to support three festivals:

- Lakeside Sessions at Nuremore
- Muckno Mania Festival
- Harvest Time Blues Festival

A further €10,000 has been made available by Fáilte Ireland specifically for Food Festivals, with two festivals confirmed for funding.



Sliabh Beagh Eco-Tourism Project

A dedicated Project Team has been established to progress the Sliabh Beagh Eco-Tourism Project, including the development of a five-year delivery plan, coordination of activities across partners, financial management and reporting, alignment with Shared Destinations communications protocols, and ongoing liaison with the Department of the Taoiseach's Shared Island Unit. The first meeting of this team has now taken place, with representation from partner councils, Fáilte Ireland, Tourism NI, Tourism Ireland and the Department of Enterprise, Tourism and Employment.

A grant investment agreement letter for Stage 1 (Project Development) has now been received, and procurement of a multi-disciplinary design team is now in progress. In addition, recruitment of a Project Coordinator will commence shortly.



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Promotional Activity

Monaghan Masterclasses is a new short-form video series launching as part of our summer campaign. It showcases local experts across food, craft and creative disciplines, sharing practical top tips while promoting authentic, hands-on experiences. Filming is currently underway, with videos set to be released weekly from the end of June. The initiative is designed to support bookable activities and strengthen links with local accommodation, encouraging visitors to stay longer and experience more of the county.



Scenic Sessions will return in 2026 as an expanded programme of pop-up live music performances across the county, building on the success of last year's initiative. The series will feature a mix of new artists alongside some returning from last year, with performances taking place across a range of familiar indoor and outdoor locations throughout the county.



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Familiarisation Trips

The Tourism Unit hosted a series of familiarisation trips to promote County Monaghan and build links with media, travel trade and industry stakeholders. The first visit welcomed Timmy Mallett and Julian Fowler during a cycling journey, generating coverage across UK and local media. Their itinerary included Clones, with cultural visits and a walking tour, while local groups amplified the visit online.

A second fam trip hosted Violaine Malié of Alainn Tours for a three-day programme showcasing Monaghan as a family-friendly, experience-rich destination. Highlights included Monaghan Town, Glaslough, Lough Muckno and Rossmore Forest Park, with a focus on outdoor activities and food experiences

Monaghan Tourism also hosted key stakeholders on a one-day programme across North and South Monaghan, highlighting attractions, heritage sites and local businesses, while strengthening collaboration and supporting future promotion of the county.



 **Do you have any upcoming events?** 

We'd love to help you spread the word! Please contact us with your event details, and we will include them on the Monaghan Tourism Events page.

<https://monaghantourism.com/festivals-events/>



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