

## Invisible ears that can't complain

In September 2014 RTE announced the cessation of its Radio One service on Longwave. This shocked many listeners in Ireland, Northern Ireland and even more so in the UK who use the service to maintain connection with Ireland. Following the RTE announcement, a press conference appeal led by author, newspaper columnist and broadcaster Fr. Bryan D'arcy called attention to the matter "R.Eireann, a home from home - a priceless link" which drew out substantial public outcry and led to RTE postponing the closure of the Longwave 252 service for two years while government funded research into the radio listening habits of the UK Irish is conducted.

Meanwhile, RTE have cut the signal power of Longwave 252 to half its original strength. This is likely to affect the opinions of the unwitting Irish diaspora who, as a result of the power cut, may change their opinion of the Longwave service.

The solution is simple - in a matter of hours and at almost zero cost, RTE could move the 252kHz service to 261kHz. With a little diplomacy this licence would be issued by Regulator Comreg and while the channel change might go unnoticed by many, its effect would be a better service with improved reception over a wider area of the UK and beyond, ensuring that RTE Radio One can continue to reach out to the invisible, yet ever appreciative ears of the Irish diaspora across these Islands.

In the UK, 6 million citizens have an Irish grandparent and half a million are Irish born while 100,000 are pensioners who rely heavily on the RTE Radio One

service to alleviate isolation. These pensioners are known as the "invisible Irish" as they have little means to speak out against such matters as the closure of the longwave service, and yet many would agree that the service is most vital to this segment of the Irish diaspora - who don't have the means or facility to receive RTE Radio One via digital technology.

Myra Butler an active volunteer with the Irish Community Care in Manchester has first hand proof of the importance this broadcast is for the elderly. The Mass each Sunday and other religious services are a solace to the incapacitated and infirm. They love the Joe Duffy programme and Sean O'Rourke. Then there is Ceilidh House every Saturday evening etc. etc.

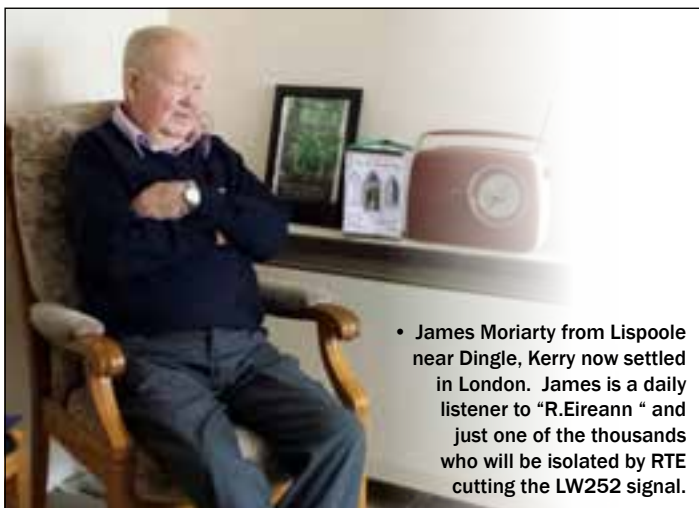
Myra continues, with regards to the survey that is being disseminated at present; I have concerns about that. The questionnaires are very slow in getting to the applicants, if at all! I met a friend last night at a W.B.Yeat's Poetry reading at Manchester University. She told me that she requested ten forms a week last Friday and only received them last Tuesday. That is about eleven days from original request. I have heard many likewise reports. The last date to request forms is now Fri 30<sup>th</sup> October. Forms must be returned by Fri Nov 6<sup>th</sup>.

*We appeal to RTE to extend the consultation period of this survey across the UK.*

help line 00 44 208 411 5503  
calls returned or if preferred survey forms posted in pre stamp addressed envelopes

**Online survey link :**

[https://jfe.qualtrics.com/form/SV\\_cMY5YAORn9Rge8Z](https://jfe.qualtrics.com/form/SV_cMY5YAORn9Rge8Z)



• James Moriarty from Lispoole near Dingle, Kerry now settled in London. James is a daily listener to "R.Eireann" and just one of the thousands who will be isolated by RTE cutting the LW252 signal.

[www.ballincolligtidytowns.ie](http://www.ballincolligtidytowns.ie)

# Ballincollig

### BALLINCOLLIG TIDY TOWNS LOCAL AWARDS

The Oriel House Hotel will host the Ballincollig Tidy Towns Awards Night on this coming Friday, the 30<sup>th</sup> October. Invitations are posted and we hope to have a good representation of Ballincollig people present. It has been another good year for Ballincollig Tidy Towns as we retained our Gold Medal status as well as improving in a number of other competitions. Without the help of all persons it would of course not be possible so we are delighted to have an opportunity to share the successes with you and give just a little back.

### TIDY TOWNS ALLOTMENT

A lot of action here all year with CE/TÚS workers, volunteers and Ballincollig Scout Group transforming the area and bring it nearer to our long term vision. The installation of the bug hotel in a dedicated wildflower patch is it's last move. The roof of the lockup has been covered and the rainwater will be collected in ICB units on new adjoining hardstand. A second tunnel is now installed and this will be well used in preparing plants for some of the bedding areas throughout Ballincollig.

And to top it all off the project achieved a second placing in the Muintir na Tire Pride in Your Place competition. The category was Most Creative Project. Well done to all involved in the allotment over the course of the year.

### SUNDAY LITTER PICKS

Last Sunday the 25<sup>th</sup> October was dry but much cooler than we have been used to. Having 27 volunteers turning out ensured we were able to cover most of our usual routes in the hour. The 2 Transitional Year students assisted in a litter pick at the town centre but we had no special projects lined up on the day. In total we

collected 16 bags with 6 of those fit for recycling.

During the week 2 volunteers were out and about with one covering the road from Poulavone to Castle Park and the other picking most days in the town centre area. These extra voluntary efforts produced 3 bags of litter and make a huge difference to the attractive appearance of Ballincollig. Our appreciation goes to all volunteers for these efforts.

### ESTATES

Leo Murphy Terrace residents were busy clearing leaves and we collected 8 bags in total during the week from there. Fr Sexton Park also did a brush up and over 20 bags were sent to compost from that. We know it seems a waste of time as already there are more leaves down but it is worth it and eventually all will be cleared.

### COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT

The installation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> tunnel in the allotment, ramps to the planted areas and the completion of the hard stand for water recycling added to a busy week for the group.

### CONTACT US

The Ballincollig Tidy Towns volunteers meet each Sunday (weather permitting) at Quish's SuperValu car park at 11:00am and follow the hour's work with a cuppa and chat at the Oriel House. New volunteers are always welcome and needed. Volunteers for tasks other than litter picking and for other days are also most welcome so let us know your skill and we will use it.

More news can be found on our Facebook page. Please like our page on your visit. Contact us by calling or texting to Pat Clarke of Ballincollig Plant and Tool Hire in Innishmore, 087-6348807. We can also be contacted at [info@ballincolligtidytowns.ie](mailto:info@ballincolligtidytowns.ie).

# ADVERTISE HERE

Call Us Now on **087 231 7886**

We can help you reach the people you need to