

# Ambitious plans for Killyfole

• By Meadhbh Monahan

One year after winning the Calor Village of the Year Environment Category, the Killyfole Development Association have big plans for the future.

A caravan park, restaurant and an all weather pitch are being considered for the scenic area which incorporates townlands and villages within a five-mile radius from Killyfole Lough. New trees are being planted and call docks are being introduced to the Lough in a bid to attract different broods of duck to the water.

The Lough has become a focal point for the area and a walkway which was opened in September has since drawn many visitors to enjoy the beautiful scenery.

Judges from the Calor Village of the Year competition, last year commended Killyfole saying: "We were amazed by the tranquil nature of the surroundings; it was an oasis in rural Fermanagh and a truly enjoyable visit."

Local man Jim Beattie, secretary of the Killyfole Development Association explained that the old water works beside Killyfole Lough offers space for new utilities in the area. A community survey is currently underway to determine what facilities will be added.

"The community survey will get people to prioritise their preferences for the use of the old water works site," Mr. Beattie said.

Suggestions include: a restaurant with a museum, a small touring caravan site with space for 68 caravans, a children's play area, a bowls pitch or an all weather pitch for a variety of sports. The group also hope to install public toilets for walkers who use the path around the Lough.

"We need some sort of activity that will generate income for the area. We have lots of ideas but need funding. The council have said that if we get funding, they will maintain it," Mr. Beattie revealed.

Environmental changes are also underway with trees being planted and new species of bird and fish being introduced to the area.

"We are building up a lot of the environment and

giving something back to nature following the work that had to be carried out in order to build the path," Mr. Beattie said.

Since winning the award last year which described Killyfole as, "a small but energetic community with limited resources other than its natural beauty which is utilised to best possible effect," members of the Association have watched as locals and people from as far away as Dublin have travelled to Killyfole Lough to walk, fish and canoe. Other visitors included swans and Canadian ornamental geese, who visited the Lough throughout the year.

"The walkway has been a huge success; we are drawing people just for the exercise. People come every morning, even in quite bad weather," Mr. Beattie commented.

He added: "In terms of fishing we met a group of people from Dublin who had come for the day and had caught over 40 different types of fish: Roach, Bream and Pike; of course they were game fishing so they put them all back again, but it shows how the Lough is full of coarse fish."

The Department of Culture Arts and Leisure (DCAL) fisheries department have built one fishing stand and eight more are to be constructed around the Lough. Mr. Beattie hopes that DCAL will also stock the Lough with different types of fresh water fish.

The Children's Field Study Park at Killyfole has been successful in the past year with children from Aghadrumsco, Cerransy and other local Primary schools using its rock piles, ponds and nature trail as a popular learning tool.

Mr. Beattie is hopeful that Killyfole can enter the 2008 Calor Village of the Year but stresses that all community associations require funding and support.

"The other end of Fermanagh is seen as the tourist area and this side has been neglected, what with the troubles," he commented. "It would be nice to get a bit more support from the Council and the community need to get more involved."

## Summer barbecue appeal

The NSPCC fundraising committee in Portadown and Richhill are getting into the spirit of the ChildLine Calor summer BBQ appeal by holding two fundraising barbeques in the area next week.

The first is the annual family barbeque on Wednesday 18 June from 6.30 – 8pm at Groucho's Bar, Richhill. Organised by the NSPCC Richhill fundraising committee, tickets can be bought at the door on the night, or by contacting the committee members or bar in advance.

The second is a family walking treasure hunt around Portadown Town Centre and barbeque at Portadown Boat Clubhouse, which takes place on Friday 20 June from 7pm. For more information, or to buy tickets, people should contact Mary Collen on 3884 0415.

## Village of the Year heats up

RURAL villages across Northern Ireland are being urged to complete their entries for the prestigious Calor Village of the Year title 2008.

The Calor Village of the Year competition, which is being run in conjunction with the Northern Ireland Rural Development Council (RDC), is aimed at celebrating vibrant, enterprising and caring communities which make the most of local opportunities.

All villages with a population of 4,500 or less are encouraged to enter this prestigious competition, the only one of its kind in Northern Ireland.

Calor sales manager, Mark McClements, said: "The Calor Village of the Year 2008 competition is a great opportunity for local rural communities to celebrate and showcase the positive aspects of living in a rural environment.

"We know from last year's competition that there is a tremendous spirit and drive in our local villages and we want to hear from them."

Teresa Canavan, deputy chief executive of the Rural Development Council, said: "This year the competition will assess communities on five aspects of rural life – Building Community life, Environment, Young People, Older People and Business.

"For each category winner there is £1,000 to be won and £5,000 on offer to the overall winning village."

The closing date for all entries is Friday (June 20).

**GET YOUR ENTRIES IN: FOR THE CALOR VILLAGE OF THE YEAR COMPETITION**



■ **CLOSING DATE:** Lorraine Frew from last year's winning village Broughshane and Mark McClements, sales manager, Calor Gas, are urging villages from across Northern Ireland to get their entry forms in the post for the 2008 Calor Village of the Year Competition which closes on Friday 20 June. The Calor Village of the Year competition runs in conjunction with the Northern Ireland Rural Development Council (RDC), and is aimed at celebrating vibrant, enterprising and caring communities that make the most of local opportunities. (FW25-052NN)