



A Fun-filled, Festive Christmas 2014



The management, staff and elected members of Kilkenny County Council wishes everyone a happy and peaceful Christmas and good health and happiness for 2015.

Guíonn baill tofa, bainistíocht agus foireann Chomhairle Chontae Chill Chainnigh Nollaig Shona agus síochánta ar gach éinne. Sláinte agus sonas díobh i 2015.

Christmas 2014 Décor

LIGHTING UP THE CITY

In an effort to have a co-ordinated approach to Christmas lighting the city, Kilkenny County Council has agreed with the city traders to take over the lighting from 2014.

Much of the city's lighting is old and expensive to run with some of the Christmas lights over 25 years old and in need of total replacement.

A new Christmas lighting replacement programme is planned over the next 5 years which will need the financial support from the local business community, who have always contributed to lighting up the city for Christmas.

To commence the programme, Kilkenny County Council will be purchasing and erecting new Christmas lighting for the following areas:

- * John Street Upper
- * John Street Lower
- * Johns Bridge

- * Johns Quay
- * Bateman Quay
- * Rose Inn Street
- * Ormonde Street
- * Friary Street
- * William Street
- * James Street

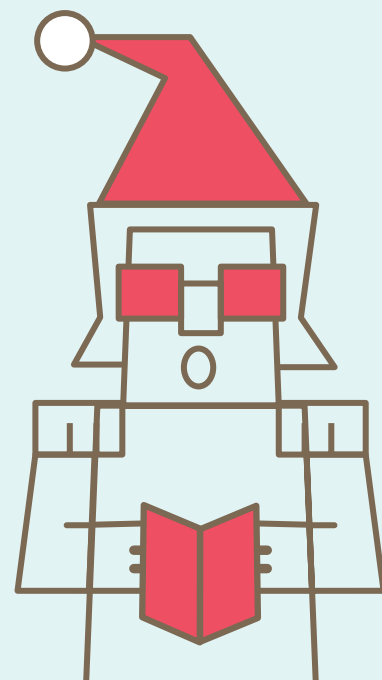
In addition the County Council will light notable city buildings including:

- * The Library
- * Tea House
- * Canal Square Lodge
- * Shee Alms House
- * Town Hall
- * Rothe House
- * Watergate Theatre

CHRISTMAS CAROLS

Throughout the Christmas period, there will be lots of performers and collectors at the Town Hall and at Market Yard Square – please come along and support generously. Groups performing in The Town hall and on Kieran St over the Christmas period include;

- * SOS Kilkenny
- * Tukolo Gospel Choir
- * St Kieran's College
- * Camphill Community
- * St Patrick's Brass Band
- * St Stephen's Army Barracks
- * Kilkenny Fire Brigade
- * Kilkenny Gardai – Special Olympics
- * Kilkenny Activity Centre in aid of The South East Simon Community
- * Amber Women's Refuge
- * Presentation Secondary School
- * St Brigids Secondary School Callan
- * Coláiste Pobal Osrai



CHRISTMAS TREES

Kilkenny County Council are erecting two Christmas trees this year, one at The Courthouse and one at The Parade. The trees and Christmas street lighting will be switched on by the Mayor of the city Cllr Andrew McGuinness and the Chairperson of the County Council Mr Pat Millea on Saturday 29th November at 4pm. ALL ARE WELCOME.

The Christmas tree at the Parade will carry the Rotary Club's remembrance ribbons – collections in aid of the Carlow Kilkenny Homecare Team.

Sing for your Community!

If your group would like to perform please contact (087) 6863243

Music on the Parade

Friday 19th, Saturday 20th,
Sunday 21st, Monday 22nd
and Tuesday 23rd December

To add to the atmosphere in the city this Christmas County Council has organised an outdoor stage and will be scheduling five days of music performances from local groups on the Parade. There will be performances for families in the afternoon from 2pm to 3.30pm, and something for teenagers from 4pm to 6.30pm. We encourage all local talent to volunteer to perform.

To book a slot please phone (087)6863243

A Warm Mayoral Welcome Home for Christmas!

Mayor of the city Cllr Andrew McGuinness will be welcoming home Kilkenny people to the Town Hall this Christmas period. From Friday December 20th to Tuesday 22nd, the doors of the town hall will be open to welcome people home to Kilkenny for Christmas.

So if you have any friends or family home for Christmas, bring them down to the Town Hall to enjoy a glass of mulled wine and mince pie with the mayor. There will be lots of silverware on display for all to see and hold including, we hope, the Liam McCarthy cup.

Dates and Times - Friday December 20th to Tuesday 22nd 12 noon to 4pm each day. ALL ARE WELCOME



Free city car parking for Christmas!

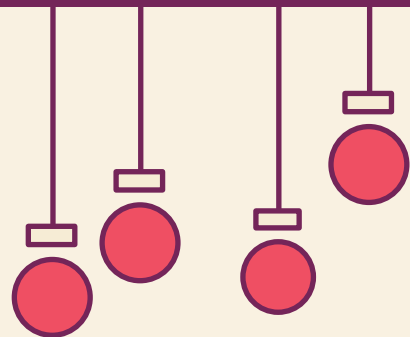
Shoppers will be enticed into the city with FREE PARKING in the Market Yard on Tuesday 9th, Wednesday 10th, Thursday 11th December from 9am to 12 noon & also on Tuesday 16th, Wednesday 17th and Thursday 18th from 9am to 12 noon.

There is free parking at all County Council car parks locations on December 27th.



We hope you like our Medieval Mile characters on the quays all dressed up for Christmas!

Christmas fun at our Libraries



Loughboy Library

T: 056 779 4176 or email
loughboy@kilkennylibrary.ie

The Loughboy Writers Group are hosting a Christmas-themed reading in the library. Family, friends, fellow writers & poets and the public are invited to come along and kick off the festive season in literary style. Seasonal refreshments will be served. Friday, December 5th at 6.30pm. Doors open at 6pm

Family Christmas Story time hosted by local Seannchai Jim Maher. Children from six years, parents, grandparents, minders and the general public are welcome to this unique Christmas event. Free tickets are available from Loughboy library so book early! Friday, December 19th at 6.30pm.

Toddler Hour will feature Christmas stories and crafts for the month of December. All welcome-no booking needed. Thursdays at 11.30am

Mystery Books-gift wrapped library books will be available during December. The idea is you that you'll go home with a surprise book, something you would never normally choose. It's always nice to get an unexpected Christmas present and hopefully you'll find a new favourite author or genre in the process. Kicking off on December 2nd.

City Library, John's Quay

T: 056 779 4174 or email
citylibrary@kilkennylibrary.ie

Children's Christmas Crafts Workshop on for 5-10 year olds. Pre-booking essential as places are limited. Saturday 6th December 11am -1pm.

Christmas Customer Morning. All are welcome for a cuppa and mince pies, and maybe a few carols! Wednesday 17th from 10am -12.30pm

Christmas Storytime: Volunteer storyteller, Jane Rafter will host a storytime for under 8's. Wednesday 10th December from 6.30pm - 7pm.

Christmas Storytime with Caroline... bring your PJ's and teddies along to our Christmas storytime on. All are welcome! Tuesday 16th December from 7-7.45pm.

12 Books of Christmas challenge: Families and individuals are invited to take up our 12 book challenge over the month of December... What better way to spend quality time with your little ones! Collect a reading log from the branch from the end of November. All those completing the challenge will be entered into a draw in January.

Graiguenamanagh Library

T: 056 779 4178 or email
grauguenamanagh@kilkennylibrary.ie

A Thank you Coffee Morning, to thank all our borrowers for their custom throughout the year. All are welcome. Thursday 11th December -

Christmas Flower Arranging FREE workshop (Pre-booking essential as places are limited). Wednesday 17th December.

Children's Christmas Craft workshop, FREE (Pre-booking essential as places are limited) Tuesday 23rd December.

Ferrybank Library

T: 051 897200 or email
ferrybank@kilkennylibrary.ie

Christmas Workshop for Children - FREE workshop for ages 5 - 10 years. Making Tree Decorations, Cards, Hanging Decorations and a Garland. All Materials provided. Saturday 13th December 2014 from 10:30 - 12:30pm Spaces limited, booking essential.

Christmas Crafts with Tanya - for children 6 years plus. Make handmade decorations and take part in the competition for the best handmade Christmas decoration and win a prize from Ferrybank Community Residents Group. The winner will be announced on December 12th in the Parish Hall at Santa's Day. Places limited, booking essential.

Quilting Exhibition - The Ferrybank Patchwork Quilters will display Christmas patchwork in the library from 2nd December. This skilful and colourful exhibition is amazing and worth a look. It's not to be missed! New members to the group are always welcome!

Santa Claus is coming to town!

Santa & the Woodland Train at The Discovery Park, Castlecomer

Dates - November 22nd to December 23rd to book - www.tickets.discoverypark.ie

Santa's enchanting woodland estate is hidden away in Castlecomer, come and share an experience you will never forget in the unique 17th century estate yard.

On arrival to the Discovery Park, adults can enjoy a complimentary mulled wine/beverage, while children (and adults!) are entertained by our friendly Head Elf playing lots of fun games in the charming Oak-beamed visitor centre. Guided by Santa's merry helpers visit Mrs Claus in her old stone Bell House to hear about the new elf village, before meeting our exceptionally jolly Santa in his cosy cabin where children get a special gift. Then for some extra magic and real Christmas wonder take the Christmas train to discover the elves' new village and their fantastic colourful huts deep in our 80 acre natural woodland, and keep an eye out for the colourful toadstool mushroom houses. As the train passes over the 17th century stone bridge, lakes and streams, and around the giant Christmas tree, make a wish before setting off to see the elves' special secret tree house. You and your family will be sure to enjoy a magical, fun-filled journey through elf and fairy land at Castlecomer Discovery Park this Christmas!

T: +353 (0)56 4440707 E. info@discoverypark.ie

Santa Village - Mount Juliet, Thomastown

Santa and his elves are returning once again to The Santa Village at Mount Juliet, Thomastown from 4th to 23rd December. The interactive theatrical production promises to be packed full of Christmas wonder, fun

and magic. Our hour-long theatrical production is filled with wonder and awe and begins with the children visiting our elf school for an important Christmas lesson. But we can't stay too long as Mrs. Claus will be waiting to meet everyone in her gingerbread kitchen. The journey continues with our entertaining cheeky elves who pave the way for the arrival of our train driver, Kris Kindle, announcing "All aboard the Santa Train".

To book www.thesantavillage.ie

Santa & his helpers at Market Cross, High Street

Santa Claus arrived up the Nore to Market Cross by boat and vintage car on Saturday November 22nd and will be residing at Market Cross until Tuesday 23rd December. Santa will give great gifts to kids and there will be an opportunity to have your photo taken with Santa. There will be lots happening in the centre throughout Christmas and the New Year so make sure to drop by and soak up the great Christmas atmosphere.

No booking required. More information www.marketcross.com

Santa, Trix the Elf and the Giant Polar Bears at MacDonagh Junction

Santa's Arrival Party took place on Sunday 23rd November when he arrived by train. From now until Christmas, Children and adults can meet Santa, the giant polar bears and Trix the Elf who will be running around the mall every weekend. For more information and prices visit www.macdonaghjunction.com. There will be a free kids movie theatre running until Christmas as well as children's events and musical performances will also get you in the mood for Christmas.

T: +353 56 7777600 E: info@macdonaghjunction.com



Christmas Shopping in Kilkenny



Think, Shop, Buy Local - It benefits Kilkenny in so many ways...

Kilkenny is a wonderful place to shop and our fabulous range of shops throughout the city and county means that we can get everything we need for Christmas without moving outside the county.

By shopping in Kilkenny, we are keeping shops open and creating employment thus benefitting every aspect of life in Kilkenny; our schools, our community centres, our sports clubs, our recreational amenities and our social outlets, bars, restaurants etc. A vibrant shopping city and county means so much for everyone - so play your part and shop in Kilkenny this Christmas.

Made in Kilkenny - Pop up Christmas Shop

'MADE in Kilkenny' was formed in early 2009, and was set up to foster excellence in crafts in County Kilkenny, to encourage the growth of the professional craft industry and to promote the county as a shopping destination for authentic, handmade craft in Ireland. Kilkenny has long had the reputation for being a hub of creativity. This Christmas, drop in to the pop-up shop on Lower John Street for all your Christmas gifts. Open from Saturday November 29th 2014 through to Christmas Eve.

Kilkenny Gift Vouchers

What better way to encourage people to spend their money locally in Kilkenny than to promote the use of Kilkenny Gift Vouchers. They are accepted in over 150 shops in Kilkenny and there is zero cost to either the customer or the retailer to use them. So, give a Kilkenny Gift Voucher this Christmas and support local businesses. Employers can save money too by rewarding their staff tax effectively with Kilkenny Gift vouchers rather than cash. Available in person or on line from www.kilkennychamber.ie and from Kilkenny Credit Union and Stonehouse Books, Murphys Jewellers and Grahams Shoes.



Christmas Markets

Rothe House Christmas Market

Saturday the 13th of December between 10am and 5pm will see Rothe House and Garden transformed into a magical Christmas Marketplace. The Tudor townhouse will throw its gates open for the day and over 20 craftspeople will set up stalls in the courtyards and magnificent rooms selling handmade treats and gifts. There will be music and hot drinks available throughout the day and hot food will be supplied by the Bula Bus! Children's craft workshops will also be running during the afternoon, with only a few places left, we suggest you book soon on 056 7722893. Keep an eye on Rothe House and Garden's facebook page for updates...

Highbank Organic Farm Christmas Market

Christmas Food and Craft Fair Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th December with orchard train rides, Christmas trees, hampers, stalls cooking demos and much more. www.highbankorchards.com.

Bridge Pottery Christmas Market

Annual Special Festive Weekend at The Bridge Pottery, Cuffesgrange on Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th December from 10am to 6pm. There will be lots of warm welcoming festive treats for everyone.

Mount Juliet Christmas Market

The Mount Juliet Christmas Markets will take place on the following dates in December - 5th, 6th, 7th, 12th, 13th, 14th and 19th 20th 21st 22nd and 23rd of December. If you wish to have your stall or business at the Mount Juliet Christmas Village please email your details to santa@thesantavillage.ie.

Market Cross Christmas Market

Market Cross shopping centre has a Craft Market in their square from 1st December to Christmas Eve from 10am daily. Come and see the beautifully hand crafted products on sale for Christmas. There are over 20 local traders with unique gifts to suit all including, Handmade Jewelry, JMM personalized cards, Christmas Wreaths & Garlands, Personalized Photo Frames, Vintage heard wear and much more. Spaces are still available contact marketcross@gmail.com

Charity at Christmas

Rotary Club Annual Christmas Service

At 11am on Christmas Eve, Bishop Seamus Freeman and Bishop Michael Burrowes will lead an ecumenical service to remember all those whose lives have been touched by Cancer, and to celebrate the work of the Carlow/Kilkenny Home Care Team. The Kilkenny Gospel Choir under the leadership of Fr Willie Purcell will perform. This ceremony follows the Annual Collection on behalf of the Carlow/Kilkenny Home Care Team, undertaken by Kilkenny Rotary. Collections will take place at various locations throughout the city during the last two weeks in December.

Kilkenny Lions Club Annual Appeal

Annual Wine & Beer Fair – Kilkenny Lions Club's 16th Annual Wine and Beer Fair, in association with The Wine Centre, takes place on Friday November 28th at 7pm in the Rossmore Suite Newpark Hotel. Free samples and lots of fun with special discounts on the night. Tickets €15 available from Wine Centre or on the door.

Annual Childrens' Christmas concert – Thursday 11th December at 8pm in St Canices Cathedral at 7.30pm. The performing choirs are CBS Primary School, Kilkenny College Chamber and Junior Choir, St Johns Choir and Percussion, Gaelscoil Osrai Kilkenny plus Banna Choir, Churchill School Choir and Ensemble Cuffesgrange, Castlecomer Community School Choir, St. Canice's School Choir and Recorder Ensemble. Both these events are part of the Kilkenny Lions Club Hamper appeal and are worthy of support. **Anyone wishing to contribute to this worthy cause please contact President George Chandler on 086 2544465.**

Susie Long Memorial Walk

Sunday, November 30th at 12noon. Kilkenny Castle Park. A short stroll (two laps) in memory of Susie Long and all those who died from cancer.

Market Cross supporting local charities

- * Kilkenny Lions Club will be showcasing their collections for their charity auction.
- * Market Cross will be the collection point for the St Vincent de Paul donations up to 12th December 2014.
- * From December 12th to 21st the Kilkenny Rotary Club will be collecting in aid of the Carlow Kilkenny Homecare Team outside Supervalu at Market Cross.

Theatre at Christmas

The Watergate, Kilkenny's Municipal Theatre - operated and funded by Kilkenny County Council. T: +353 (0)56 776 1674. E: watergateinfo@eircom.net www.ctb.ie/tickets/watergate

‘Showstoppers’ – Kilkenny Musical Society & Jesters Stage Academy

24 Nov 2014 & 25 Nov 2014. 8pm - 10pm. Tickets: €15/ €12
Bridge Pottery Christmas Market

‘Irish Country Stars’ Christmas Concert

Crystal Swing, Trudi Lalor, Paddy O’Brien, TR Dallas & Johnny Carroll.
4 Dec 2014 8pm - 10pm. Tickets: €20

Call Mr. Robeson – A life, with songs

5 Dec 2014 8:00pm - 9:30pm Tickets: €18/€15

The Elixir of Love (L’elisir d’amore) - Opera Theatre Company

7 Dec 2014 7:30 pm - 10:00pm Tickets: €30

War of Attrition - Devious Theatre Company

9 Dec 2014 until 11 Dec 2014. 8pm - 10pm. Tickets: €12

A Jazzy Merry Christmas

12 Dec 2014 8pm - 9pm Tickets: €10

Seán Keane in Concert

17 Dec 2014 8pm - 10pm. Tickets: €20

Elf Factory, a magical ‘First Christmas’ experience for the very young!

Friday December 19th: 10am & 11:30am and Saturday December 20th: 2pm & 3:30pm.
Ages: 3 years to 5 years. Duration: 35 minutes. Maximum 30 children per show + 20 adults.
Tickets: €5.

Christmas Panto - Little Red Riding Hood

10 Jan 2015 until 17 Jan 2015. 3:00pm Tickets: €12.50/ €14/ €18

For more information www.watergatetheatre.ie

Be Active This Christmas

Woodstock Gardens

With the exception of Christmas day, Woodstock Gardens in Inistioge will be open every day over the Christmas holidays.

Jenkinstown Wood

Jenkinstown Wood has a Christmas tree depot, located within the old deer garden of the park. The great location means that families can get their Christmas tree while getting a chance to feed and see the deer and take a walk in the beautiful woodland.

Santa Run – 5km and 3km in the Castle Park

Saturday 6th December 12 noon. Registration from 9.30am at The Left Bank.

Adults €10 Children €5. Families €20. Group discounts available. kilkennysantarun@hotmail.com

The Watershed, Kilkenny's Municipal Swimming & Sports Facility

The Swim Academy and Schools Programme both take their Christmas breaks from December 19th, there is lots of space in the pool to enjoy a Family Swim and have some really healthy quality family time over the Christmas period.

Kilkenny on Ice, Cillin Hill

Kilkenny on Ice focuses this year on an amazing experience for all the family with the return of the Skyfall Zipline along with the usual favourites like the mammoth Ice Slide, Bungee Trampolines, Rodeo Reindeer and the magnificent centrepiece which is the 600sqm of real ice.

Another newcomer this year to Kilkenny on Ice is an amazing Carousel for kiddies.

Tickets are on sale from the Box Office in Supermacs, High St, Kilkenny.

Phone: +353 (0)86 2236660. www.kilkennyonice.com

