



















TOP THINGS TO DO NEARBY

A stone's throw away.

BALLITORE QUAKER MUSEUM The Quaker museum is housed in the home of Mary Leadbeater, it contains a collection of artefacts on the Quaker settlement in Ballitore. Open all year 059 8623344.

GORDON BENNETT ROUTE

Let the Gordon Bennett Route take you on an historic journey across the picturesque towns and villages of counties Kildare, Carlow and Laois. Identifiable road signs make the Gordon Bennett Route an easy to follow tour offering a unique insight into the lives, atmosphere and sheer adrenalin behind the historic car race that roared across this 166km (104 mile) route in 1903. Open all year, official events are held in June. www.gordonbennettroute.com

HORSERIDING

Pitfield Equestrian Centre, Castledermot. Off road riding, cross country course, floodlit arena. Open all year. Tel 059 9144208 Kilmon Riding Centre, Ballyadams, Co. Laois. Beginners to advanced and those in between. 087 6444578 Madges Lane Stables, Castledermot. Pony camps, fun days, treks, full and half board, lessons. Open Mon to Sat 086 387 9698

THE MOATE OF ARDSCULL

This 13th century Norman Earthwork, improved by the Fitzgeralds in the 15th century, is one of the biggest of its kind in Ireland. Also the site of a memorial to the famous Gordon Bennett Motor race which passed by in 1903. An ideal site for a picnic.

MOONE HIGH CROSS, CASTLEDERMOT

ABBEY, ROUND TOWER AND HIGH CROSS Castledermot, site of an early Christian monastic settlement of 500 AD is a must for historians who can discover the 13th century St Diarmaid's Church, 2 unique granite high crosses, a 10th century round tower, a Romanesque arch from a church that has since vanished and a number of ancient stones and grave slabs. Moone High Cross a 5 metre granite cross is also only a short distance away.

VICARSTOWN

An attractive port on the Grand Canal, a useful base for walking, cycling, boating and fishing. Vicarstown is a good base to visit the picturesque village of Stradbally and Fisherstown where one of the oldest pubs in Ireland lies. Open all year.

WOODS AND WALKING TRAILS

A walk through a wood can be a priceless experience at anytime of the year. Stradbally Woods and Mullaghreelan offer a great backdrop for a calm walk in the woods, while Kelivelle lake provides a relaxing loop walk alongside the back drop of the carp and coarse fisheries lake. All three amenities are only 10 mins drive from Athy.

Within a 20 minute drive..

CLUBS AND NIGHT LIFE

Athy has something to offer all tastes, with a variety of music and theatre available in the Arts Centre and both hotels. The town is a hub of activity on the weekend with a great variety of restaurants, bars and disco bars to choose from. There are also a number of iconic live venues to choose from within a 20 minute drive namely Dinn Rí in Carlow and Time in Naas. Rock festivals are within easy reach one can choose from Oxygen at Punchestown in July or The Electric Picnic in Stradbally in September.

GOLF

Kildare is a golfers paradise and played host to 2006 Ryder Cup. Within the county there are 20 superb golf courses, 5 of which are within a 20 minute drive of Athy. Open 7 days a week. www.kildare.ie/tourism/Golf/

IRISH NATIONAL STUD, JAPANESE GARDENS AND ST FIACHRA'S GARDENS

This is one of the country's major tourist attractions and it is the only Stud farm in Ireland open to the public. The complex houses the following: Irish National Stud - Home to some of Ireland's finest thoroughbreds. Japanese Gardens the finest Japanese Gardens in Europe. Saint Fiachra's Garden woodland and lakeside walks. Horse Museum - a state of the art modern exhibition where the sport of kings comes to life. Open February to November. 045 521251 www.irish-national-stud.ie.

KILDARE VILLAGE OUTLET SHOPPING

Kildare Village, located just 15 mins from Athy, is an unrivalled shopping experience featuring up to 60% off, every day, all year-round reductions on an exclusive selection of over 50 sought-after international designer brands for your home and wardrobe. Open 7 days a week. 045 520521 www.kildarevillage.com

NEWBRIDGE GREYHOUND STADIUM Situated right in the heart of the county. It is one of Kildare's premier weekend night-time entertainment venues. Racing commences at 7.50pm, every Friday and Saturday evening. Open every Fri & Sat. 045 446658 www.newbridgegreyhoundstadium.ie

NEWBRIDGE SILVERWARE

Famous for designing and manufacturing quality jewellery and lifestyle products and widely regarded as Ireland's premier giftware brand, all under the one roof. The showrooms, restaurant and museum of style icons provide a great base for a day out. Open 7 days a week. 045-431301 www.newbridgesilverware.com





BLESSINGTON LAKES

Set in the Wicklow Mountains, the Blessington Lakes cover 500 acres of water. The lakes were formed 50 years ago by the building of the Poulaphouca Dam, a hydroelectric station. Many amenities can be enjoyed on the lakes. Open all year round. Tel 0404 20070 www.visitwicklow.ie

CARLOW GARDEN TRAIL

Carlow Garden Trail features 16 different gardening attractions including great old gardens that have been lovingly restored and maintained throughout the years and smaller gardens which are maturing beautifully with time. Widely respected as the jewel in Ireland's gardening crown, Altamont Gardens are an enchanting blend of formal and informal gardens with riverside walks covering over 40 acres. Tel: 059 9130411 www.carlowgardentrail.com

CASTLECOMER DISCOVERY PARK

An 80 acre discovery park incorporating woodland walks, two lakes, tea rooms craft and visitor centre, an adventure playground and coal mining experience. A great day out where history and science come alive. Open all year. 056 4440707 www.discoverypark.ie

DONADEA FOREST PARK

he park covers 243 hectares of mixed woodland. It is part of the old Aylmer family estate, with many historical features including the remains of the castle, walled gardens, church, tower, ice house, boat house and Lime Tree Avenue. There is also a 2.3 hectare lake and many different walks through the forest. Open all year. 045 869151 www.coillte.ie

EMO HOUSE AND GARDENS

Emo Court is a country villa designed by architect James Gandon, best known for his great public buildings, including the Custom House and the Four Courts in Dublin. The house is a magnificent example of the neo-Classical style. It is surrounded by beautiful gardens and parkland which were first laid out in the 18th century and contain formal lawns, a lake and woodland walks with many very fine trees and shrubs. Today Emo Court and its gardens are owned and managed by the Office of Public Works. Gardens open every day during daylight hours. Open during summer. Tel: 057 862 6573. See www.heritageireland.ie for more.

GLENDALOUGH

Glendalough is a remarkable place that will still your mind, inspire your heart and fill your soul. Located in the Wicklow Mountains National Park and has many attractions to entice, entertain and enthral visitors, from its world famous monastic site with round tower to its scenic lakes and valleys, as well as a selection of walks and trails in the area. Open all year. 0404 45600 www.glendalough.ie



La Scala Leinster Street 059 8633627

Ngai's Restaurant 29A Leinster St, Emily Sq 059 8638008 • 8638009





059 8640666 www.clanardcourt.ie **GUESTHOUSES** and B&Bs

Ardscull Farm House Dublin Rd (N78) Athy 059 8626188 • 087 2109768 www.ardscullfarm.com

Clanard Court Hotel

Dublin Rd, Athy

PLACES

TO STAY

HOTELS

Failte Ireland Approved Accommod

Carlton Abbey Hotel

www.carltonabbeyhotel.com

The Convent, Athy

059 8630100

Aurora House Kildare Rd, Athy 059 8633103 • 085 7230423

www.aurorahouse.net **Ballindrum Farm** Ballindrum, Athy 059 8626294 • 087 2305020 www.ballindrumfarm.com

Bray House Castledermot Rd, Athy 059 8631052 • 086 8389576 www.brayhouse.com

Coursetown House Stradbally Rd, Athy 059 8631101 • 087 2072070 Tel: 059 8638240 www.coursetown.com

Forest Farm Dublin Rd (N78), Athy 059 8631231 www.accommodationathy.com

Moate Lodge Dublin Rd (N78), Athy 059 8626137 • 086 3408579 www.moatelodge.com

Pill Lodge Bealan, Moone 059 8624147 • 0863445747

Pump House Barrowford, Athy 059 8631305 www.barrowfordfarm.com

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Irish Rail Athy Train Station Servicing Dublin and

Waterford via Athy 059 8631966 • www.irishrail.ie **Bus Eireann**

Servicing Dublin and Clonmel via Athy. Tel: 01 8366111 www.buseireann.ie

JJ Kavanagh Coaches Servicing Dublin City Centre and Airport. Tel: 0818 333 222 www.jjkavanagh.ie

South Kildare **Community Transport** Servicing local villages and Newbridge. Tel: 045 871916 www.skct.ie

Crom Abu Cabs Ignatious Rice Car Park Tel: 059 8632463

Vals Cabs Leinster Street

HORSE RACING

Racing enthusiasts can choose from a number of superb tracks within easy reach. The Curragh, Punchestown, Naas, and Gowran Park are all within a 30 minute drive from Athy.

KILKENNY CASTLE

One of the most instantly recognised buildings in Ireland. Home of the Butler family from 1391 until 1935. The castle and parklands adjoining the castle are now managed by the OPW. Steeped in history and culture, Kilkenny Castle provides the venue for a great day out. Open all year. 056 7704100 www.kilkennycastle.ie

LULLYMORE HERITAGE & DISCOVERY PARK An award winning family attraction, combining education

and fun. Recreations of dwellings from Irish history and an exhibition on the 1798 rebellion from a Kildare viewpoint provide the informative aspect while an adventure playground, train trips, crazy golf and indoor play centre provide the fun. Open all year. 045 870238 www.kildare.ie/lullymore

MONDELLO PARK MOTOR RACING CIRCUIT Ireland's only international motor racing circuit. The packed calendar includes car and bike events and allows enthusiasts to drive their own performance cars on the circuits. Open on event days. 045 860200 www.mondello.ie

PLACES TO EAT

RESTAURANTS

Ashoka Indian Restaurant Leinster St • 059 863227

Athy Golf Club Geraldine, Athy 059 8631729 **Bailey's Bar and Brasserie**

Clanard Court Hotel 059 8640666 **Jasmine Court**

6 Stanhope Street 059 8634901

The Abbey Bar and Benedict's The Carlton Abbey 059 8630100

The Bay Tree 4 Stanhope St 059 8641819 The Royal Garden

Chinese Restaurant 20 Emily Square 059 8633471

COFFEE SHOPS, **CARVERY** and **PUB GRUB**

An Sean Chisten Duke Street 059 8634988

Deelish Leinster St • 059 8641533 Bradbury's Cafe, Bakery & Deli Leinster Street

059 8631845

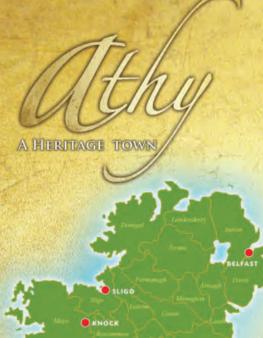
Emily Square • 059 8633155 Smugglers' Bar & Restaurant 44 Duke Street 059 8641844

The Hunting Ground Dublin Rd, Athy 059 8632699

The Metz Sandwich Bar 42A Leinster Street 059 8640581



Athy, County Kildare, Ireland VISITOR GUIDE to ATHY and the SURROUNDING AREA



GETTING TO ATHY

Travelling from Dublin, Athy is just off the M9 at exit 3. Take the N78 directly into town which follows on to Kilkenny.

Distances by car

Dublin Airport 83kms/52mls Cork City 195 kms/121 mls Galway 174kms/108mls Rosslare Harbour 116kms/72mls Belfast 238kms/148mls Dublin Airport is the nearest commercial airport with frequent direct bus and rail links to Athy.

FIND OUT MORE

Athy Tourist Information office is located in the Heritage Centre, opening hours are Monday to Friday 10am to 5pm and weekends on a seasonal basis. Tel 059 8633075 or see www.athyheritagecentre-museum.ie for further information.

For information on current events and activities see www.whatsonathy.com and for a detailed business and service listing refer to www.athydirectory.com

SHINE 💽 Fâilte Ireland

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While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the accept no responsibility for errors or a

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THE TOP THINGS TO DO IN ATHY

ATHY COMMUNITY ARTS CENTRE Located in the Methodist Church on Woodstock St, Athy Community Arts Centre houses a 110 seat theatre and a workshop and exhibition space. Opened as an arts venue in 2010, the centre has a programme of theatre, live music, exhibitions, workshops and literary and social events throughout the year. For further information on current events contact athyarts@gmail.com or phone 085 2447221

ATHY COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Offers a wide range of services, including: fiction, non-fiction and reference books for all ages; language learning packs, audio books, CDs and DVDs; newspapers and periodicals; Free Internet access to members; workshops, exhibitions and events throughout the year. Contact us at: Town Hall, Emily Square, Tel: 059 8631144 • athylib@kildarecoco.ie • www.kildare.ie/library

ATHY HERITAGE CENTRE, MUSEUM AND TOURIST OFFICE

Traces the history of the Anglo-Norman town on the Marches of Kildare. View the Grand Canal, Great Famine, Military, Quakers, Kellyites and Gordon Bennett exhibits and much more. Renowned for the only permanent exhibition to Ernest Shackleton. The audio guides and a 30 seated audio room brings the whole experience to life. Hosts monthly events. To find out more see: www.athyheritagecentre-museum.ie www.shackletonmuseum.com • Other services: tourist office. iInternet access point, gift shop • 059 8633075 • athyheritage@eircom.net

BARROWLINE CRUISERS

Barrowline Cruisers is a family-owned barge hire company, providing well equipped self-drive barges varying in size from 2 berth narrow boats to 8 berth wide beams. Their base on the Grand Canal is ideally located to allow you to explore the full extent of the Grand Canal and River Barrow. Weekly and short break hire available. Phone: 057 8626060 087 9887241 Email: barrowline@eircom.net

CASTLEFARM

Situated halfway between Athy and Kilcullen, Castlefarm organic farm offers farm tours to suit all ages and groups. Find out more on 086 3736402, www.castlefarmshop.ie

GARDENS

Ballintubbert House Gardens, Ballintubbert, Athy. The Gardens are surrounding the former Georgian vicarage and birthplace of poet Cecil Day Lewis. Open Saturdays and Sundays during July and August or by appointment. Tel 086 8696391 Burtown House Gardens, Ballytore, Athy. Access by appointment and for groups only. Tel: 059 862 3148.

HERITAGE TRAIL / WALKING

Athy Heritage Town is rich in cultural and historical sites. Walking and cycling tours are also popular particularly along the canal and River Barrow. Take a step back in time and discover historic Athy - we've got amazing buildings and monuments waiting to be explored as you learn more about Athy's past. Our heritage attractions, museum, properties of historical interest are the perfect places to visit for a family day out or a weekend break with friends. Three walking trails are signposted throughout the town. Also: Ballintubbert House garden trail and nearby forest walks. Athy Heritage Centre/Museum Tourist Office 059 8633075. Mount St Mary's Houses - the only permanent Traveller Cultural Museum in the country. 059 8632612.

FISHING & WATERSPORTS

Athy is almost unique amongst Irish towns in having both a canal and river running through it. Whether you are a boat enthusiast, historian, ogger or fisherman, you will find something of interest in the NBIWAI branch's activities. www.nbarrow.iwai.ie. With the proliferation of waterways around Athy fishing is a popular sport and pastime. Coarse fishing predominates with Perch, Bream, Rudd, Tench and Pike being caught in sizeable quantities. Athy Anglers: Contact John Shaughnessy 086 382 4043. Canoeing is growing sport in Athy. They host the annual Club Polo Championships in August which sees 20 teams competing on the canal. Other activities include Rescue and Safety techniques, Canoe Polo and River Running. Tel 087 7757722 athycanoeclub@gmail.com

GOLF

Athy Golf Course is one of Kildare's finest courses, enhanced by mature beech trees and the calming waters of lake and stream. Take on this superb 18 hole course with its extensive fairways and manicured greens before retiring to the friendly, welcoming atmosphere of the clubhouse. Tel 059 8631729 or www.athygolfclub.com. Cardenton House Par 3 Golf Course is a nicely maturing parkland par 3, 18 hole course on 50 acres, situated alongside the Grand Canal overlooking the beautiful countryside. Water features and bunkers to challenge golfers of all levels. 059 8634958 / 087 8265129 www.athypar3.com

K LEISURE

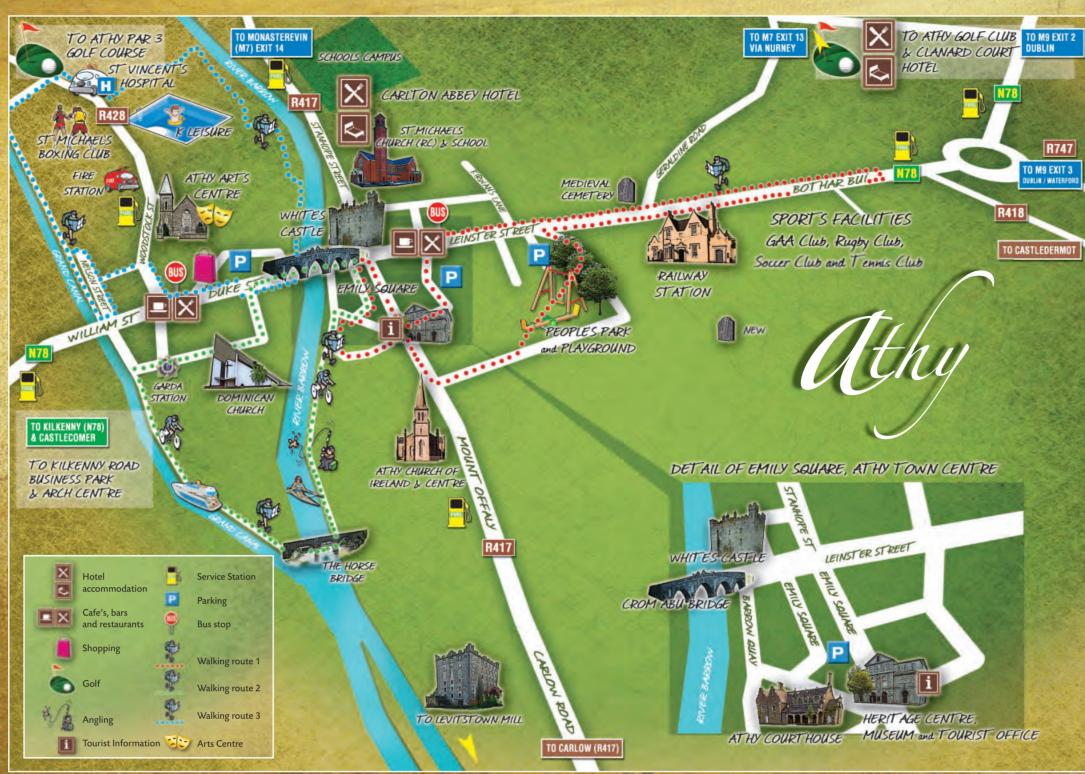
K Leisure is a state-of-the-art leisure facility with a 6 lane, 25m deck level pool with moveable floor, sauna and steamroom, state-of-the-art fitness suite and gym, aerobic studio with 7 classes daily Opening Times: Monday-Friday 6.30am-10.00pm. Saturday-Sunday & Bank Holidays 10.00–6.00pm. Tel: 059 8641522, www.kleisure.ie

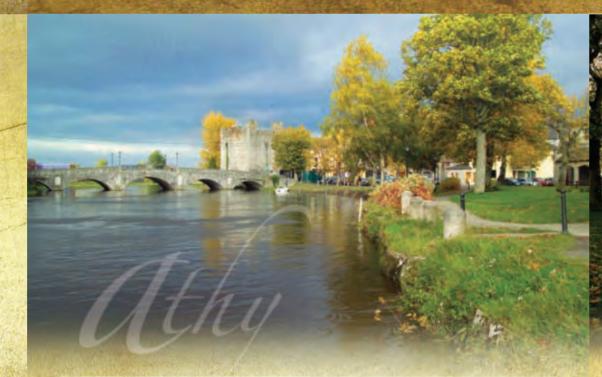
NIGHT LIFE

Become a visitor on your first night and a regular on your second! Athy town is a hub of activity at the weekend, with a great variety of restaurants, bars and disco bars to choose from. After a relaxing meal in one of the many restaurants you can choose to relax on a high stool and engage in a bit of craic and banter with the locals with a local trad session. If you fancy a late night why not dance the night away in one of the late disco bars. Athy has a wonderful Arts theatre offering regular entertainment, also both hotels host a number of concerts hroughout the year. www.whatsonathy.com

SHOPPING IN ATHY

A feature of shopping in Athy is that the vast majority of its retail outlets are independently owned by local business people, with fashion, craft and giftware, hardware, food outlets, supermarkets, hair and beauty salons and a great selection of restaurants and bars. Shopping in Athy is a stress free enjoyable experience with something for everyone. There are a number of unique and elegant shops which cater for that special occasion, providing you with something special and different to wear. www.shopathy.com





WELCOME TO ATHY

Athy's bridge over the Barrow is a fine symbol of all we are. Our town spans many worlds, the rural and urban, the past and present, international stars and local heroes, the arts and sport.

Crom Abu Bridge was named for the war cry of the Fitzgeralds, and that is not all they named. Our main axis of streets commemorate William Duke of Leinster and Emily Stanhope of Offaly.

Standing on Crom Abu, watching the water and the world go by, it isn't hard to see is how people with artistic leanings could be inspired. John Minahen's photography has always been about interesting faces. Cecil Day Lewis was born locally, and continues to inspire young writers today through the Cecil Kenny and Clare Kambamettu (pictured Day Lewis Literary awards. The town resounds with musicality, from local sessions to concerts at the new Arts Centre, Clem O'Brien's Blue

Grass stylings and Jack L's magnificent baritone are only the tip to the talent.

In early summer watch the finest athletes prepare and participate in TriAthy, Ireland's fastest triathlon. Such feats of endurance are nothing new to Athy, home of Ernest Shackleton, hero of Antarctic exploration. And from boxing champions at St Michael's Club to GAA, rugby and tennis, all tastes are catered for.

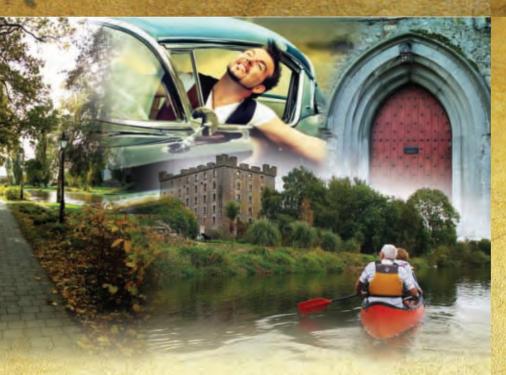
It has been said that a man could grow an inch walking the fields around Athy, so good is the land. Did you know that Athy hosted the very first Ploughing Championship in 1931? To see it return to its home was the highlight of 2009 and 2010.

In 2009 and 2010 local girls Charmaine right) won the hearts of the nation at the Dome in Kerry when they were crowned the 51st and 52nd Roses of Tralee.

Start your stay at one of the fine hotels, or a friendly B & B, either in town or choose a nearby country setting. Then the day is your own. Explore the heritage town, walk the river trails, browse the boutiques and get to know the many festivals and celebrations from the friendly community.

We are lucky to have and proud to share our great location, warm personalities, our town spirit and outstanding facilities. With all these assets it's no wonder that Athy was chosen as

If the long walk after the small ball is your thing, the Cardington Par Three, Athy Golf



Club, and Kilkea are beautiful courses in easy reach of the heart of Athy. Conveniently located to an abundance of attractions both locally and in bordering counties, Athy can be accessed easily by rail, bus, car and river. After day sightseeing, hiking, fishing, cycling, horseriding, even archery, enjoy a creamy pint, a bite to eat, a chat and the craic .

Ireland's first Shine town, a national initiative aimed at improving the visitor's experience.

Athy is off the beaten track, yet at the heart of everything, full of surprises, where you will

be a visitor on your first night and a regular by your second!



FESTIVALS AND EVENTS



St. Patrick's Day Parade Athy welcomes residents and visitors to celebrate St. Patrick's Day at the Annual St. Patrick Day Parade, featuring floats and bands as they pass through the town's streets with in a colorful display. Contact: Heritage Centre & Museum for details.



South Kildare

Medieval Festival The south Kildare Medieval Festival is a fun informative family day out. This event is special because we blend living history, archaeology, hands-on workshops and exhibitions, so all ages can see, hear, touch and taste our shared heritage. With Costumes and archers, games and art, food and always fun and learning, come and share this unique happening. Ph: 059 8633075



County Show This annual event which takes place in July has contributed greatly to the social and economic development of Athy and its hinterland over the past 100 years and intends to continue to do so for many years to come. This is a family fun day out with something for everyone. The programme of events include many displays, exhibits, outdoor and indoor trade stands, art & craft, home produce competitions, carnival and much much more



Athy Bluegrass

Music Festival Athy Bluegrass Music Festival is a celebration of a genre of music started by Bill Monroe from Kentucky in the 1940's using stringed instruments Guitar, Mandolin, Fiddle, 5stg Banjo and Double Bass with lead & harmony singing. Athy was the first ever bluegrass festival to be held in Ireland in 1991. It has a fan base from all over Ireland and abroad and is affectionately known as



Cecil Day Lewis Literary Awards/Festival Entries are invited from all schools in Co. Kildare to enter the annual Cecil Day Lewis Literary Awards competition under the various sections: Short Story, Poetry and One Act Play. Cecil Day-Lewis, born in 1904 was the son of a Church of Ireland Minister, then living in Ballintubbert House, Athy. A talented and humorous man, he was awarded Poet Laureate. athyheritage@eircom.net Tel: 059 8633075 www.athyheritagecentre-museun



Event1: SwimAthy SwimAthy is an open water swim in the River Barrow which usually takes place on the Sunday before the June Bank Holiday weekend. It has become the traditional warm-up event for TriAthy which occurs the following weekend, 1500m, 750m and 400m swims are on offer.

"Athy in July". The spiritual nome of Irish bluegrass. www.athy-bluegrass.com 85 1656685



Shackletor

Autumn School Shackleton Autumn School held annual on the October Bank Holiday weekend - a 4 day event. The only forum for Polar research in Ireland. Consisting of lectures, exhibits, drama, Film, music and field trips. Highlights include an original sledge and harness, a 15-foot model of Shackleton's ship Endurance,

unique photographs, audio guide and an audio visual display featuring Frank Hurley's original film footage of the Endurance expedition. www.shackletonmuseum.com www.athyheritagecentre-museum.ie Email: athyheritage@eircom.net Tel: 059 8633075



Christmas **Chocolate Festival** The ShopAthy Christmas Chocolate Festival is back again and this year it's going from funsize to kingsize! Come and join us 3rd to 6th



Event 2: TriAthy TriAthy is Ireland's largest and favourite triathlon event which takes place over two days over the June Bank Holiday weekend. Olympic, Sprint and Try distances are available and the event is open to individuals and relay teams. Over 3,000 participants and up to 10,000 spectators converge on the town over this special sporting weekend. Find out more at www.triathy.com



Gordon Bennett Festival Held annually in June. Here you can enjoy the thrills and spills of the 1903 Gordon Bennett Commerative Rally, following a circuit centered around Athy- know as 'the home of the Gordon Bennett'. Why not join the activities held each year to commemorate the race, after viewing the exhibits, audio footage, and using the audio guides why not drive the Gordon Bennett circuit. Email: athyheritage@eircom.net Tel: 059 8633075

December 2010 for storytelling, street theatre, children's craft workshops, musical, choral and drama, art exhibitions, our International Crib Exhibition and of course chocolate! Kick off your Christmas with our family focused festival. 059 8633075 nfo@shopathy.com www.shopathy.com

Women's Integrated Network (WIN)

Women's Integrated Network (WIN), Athy, founded in 2007 by Frances Soney-Ituen. WIN, Athy's success is a collective success. Our goal; empowerment for positive integration. Valuing all peoples, developing potentials, celebrating diversity. Our Vision is to develop a positively integrated community where all citizens are equal respected, appreciated, celebrated and empowered to attain their full potential for the common good. Email: gloriousgod2004@yahoo.co.uk 085 1426012 www.womensintegratednetworkwin-athy.org

Athy Film Club/ Festival

The Film Club is an integral part of Athy's vibrant social and cultural scene. The aim of the Film Club is to give local audiences and visitors the opportunity to see a range of world and classic cinema that rarely make it to commercial cinema. 086 2112046. athyfilmclub@gmail.com