

Calendar 2016



Irish Water Safety

Sábháilteacht Uisce na hÉireann

*Know What You're Getting Into -
Train Smart From The Start*





Irish Water Safety
Sábháilteacht Uisce na hÉireann

A Christmas Message from Irish Water Safety

The Council of Irish Water Safety is delighted to present you with the IWS Calendar 2016, brought to you through the kind and generous support of a number of sponsors, to whom I extend our grateful appreciation.

2015 saw IWS celebrate 70 years of the founding of a National Body to deal with lifesaving and drowning prevention. This was marked by many key achievements. Springtime saw the opening of two dedicated lifeguard training centres and stations, in Waterford and Clare. This is a great achievement and a credit to the local committees. We also saw the publication of "The History of Irish Water Safety", which records the story of 80 years of lifesaving training in Ireland.

In January, we hosted 96 participants from across Europe, attending International Life Saving Europe (ILSE) commission meetings in Dublin to discuss all types of drowning prevention strategies. This was the first time this group met in Ireland.

2015 presented another busy year for us all. Although the weather was not as good as the previous two summers, we still had large numbers of children in our "Water Safety" weeks. The conditions proved a great challenge to our instructors but they rose to it as usual! We trialled Water Safety Swim hats in some areas and these were a great success.

2014 statistics tell us that 114 people drowned in Ireland. What is more shocking is that 6 of these were children under the age of 14, double the average in this category. This highlights the need for constant parental supervision and our communication of that message. Rest assured that Irish Water Safety will continue to target at-risk groups with initiatives to highlight best practices.

Through our extra government funding and sponsorship, we were able to deliver a national media campaign to highlight the dangers of our waters. Once again we were able to support the work of our Education Officer and our volunteers nationwide, targeting schools through our "Primary Aquatics Water Safety" PAWS programme, part of the official school curriculum.

Our instructors can be proud of the fact that in July 2015, Lifeguards rescued 173 casualties from our beaches, rivers and lakes. In the same period, there were 278 lost children reunited with their parents and 8,665 accidents prevented by the proactive actions of our trained and assessed Lifeguards. The skills you impart as swimming teachers and Water Safety Instructors ensures that we are able to turn out young people every year with the ability to take on these jobs in a capable and professional manner. This we deeply appreciate.

At this time of year in particular, our thoughts are with the families of those members who have passed. This year, we lost a Life Governor and an Instructor from Dublin, and a volunteer from both our Clare and Leitrim Committees. I am also conscious of the number of members who have lost family members themselves. We extend our deepest sympathies to all families who are feeling their loss.

We set in to our programme for 2016 with anticipation of the challenges it presents. For your continued work and support, I thank you in advance. It is only with your continuing support and engagement that can meet the challenges that make a difference to drowning prevention in our country.

Every good wish to you and your family for a healthy and happy season of reflection and celebration.

Chairman
Irish Water Safety

January 2016



Irish Water Safety

Sábháilteacht Uisce na hÉireann



All smiles on the rocky path to an IWS Seal Award at Cappa Pier, Kilrush, Co Clare Summer Swim Week. (Photo: Sinead Mortell, Clare)

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun
28	29	30	31	1 New Year's Day	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16 National Pool Lifeguard Provider Course, Dublin	17 National Pool Lifeguard Provider Course, Dublin
18	19	20	21	22 Holiday World Show, RDS International Lifesaving Europe Commissions & Board meetings, Helsinki	23 Holiday World Show, RDS International Lifesaving Europe Commissions & Board meetings, Helsinki	24 Holiday World Show, RDS International Lifesaving Europe Commissions & Board meetings, Helsinki
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Notes

For updates on all courses and events, please check Calendar of Events on www.iws.ie



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February 2016



Irish Water Safety

Sábháilteacht Uisce na hÉireann



Olivia Lawlor and Aoife Morrison Cork battling it out in the Girls Age 8 category Nipper Board All Ireland Final in Tramore, Co. Waterford. (Photo: Celine Griffin, Cork)

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun
1	2	3 Council Meeting	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12 National Still Water Referees "B & C" Course, Limerick	13 Referees Course, Limerick National Junior, Senior & Masters Still Water Championships	14 Referees Course, Limerick National Junior, Senior & Masters Still Water Championships
15	16	17	18	19	20 Ireland Angling Expo, National Show Centre, Swords	21 Ireland Angling Expo, National Show Centre, Swords
22	23	24	25	26	27 Swim Tutor's Course	28 Swim Tutor's Course
29	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13

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March 2016



Irish Water Safety

Sábháilteacht Uisce na hÉireann



Declan Martin, winner for the second year in a row of the 2015 Lough Gill 10K swim in Sligo.
(Photo: Carl Brennan, Sligo)

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun
29	1	2	3	4 Skipper Expo International, Galway	5 Skipper Expo International, Galway Provincial Still Water Nipper Championships	6 Provincial Still Water Nipper Championships
7	8	9	10	11	12	13 Wexford Invitational
14	15	16	17 St Patrick's Day	18	19	20
21	22 United Nations World Water Day	23 Local Authority Beach Lifeguard Exams commence	24	25	26 Swim Tutor's Course	27 Swim Tutor's Course
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10

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April 2016



Irish Water Safety

Sábháilteacht Uisce na hÉireann



75 children participated in the Moville, Greencastle and Shrove swim week at Shrove beach, Donegal (Photo: Danny Farren, Donegal)

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun
28	29	30	31	1	2 National Nippers Still Water Championships	3
4	5	6 Council Meeting	7	8	9	10
11	12	13 WSDO Conference, Kilkenny	14 WSDO Conference, Kilkenny	15 WSDO Conference, Kilkenny	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23 ILSE Risk Assessor Training Course	24 ILSE Risk Assessors Training Course
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8

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May 2016



Irish Water Safety

Sábháilteacht Uisce na hÉireann



Three generations of Irish Water Safety volunteers. Angela Wynne, centre, with her daughters & grandchildren at the Greystones Water Safety Week. (Photo: Colm Dempsey, Wicklow)

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun
27	28	27	28	29	30	1
2 May Bank Hol	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20 European Maritime Day	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	1	2	3	4	5

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June 2016



Irish Water Safety

Sábháilteacht Uisce na hÉireann



Pupils from several National Schools in Gort, Co Galway learn how to throw a ringbuoy as part of the Primary Aquatics Water Safety curriculum. (Photo: Aidan Sweeney)

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
6 June Bank Hol	7	8 Council Meeting	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 Irish Water Safety's National Water Safety Awareness Week	21 Irish Water Safety's National Water Safety Awareness Week	22 Irish Water Safety's National Water Safety Awareness Week	23 Irish Water Safety's National Water Safety Awareness Week	24 Irish Water Safety's National Water Safety Awareness Week	25 Irish Water Safety's National Water Safety Awareness Week	26 Irish Water Safety's National Water Safety Awareness Week
27 Nationwide Summer Weeks Classes Commence	28	29	30	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10

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July 2016



Irish Water Safety

Sábháilteacht Uisce na hÉireann



Cork Master Thomas Neville pips a smiling Colm Fitzgerald from Clare in the All Ireland Master's Board Race in Spanish Point, Co. Clare. (Photo: Celine Griffin, Cork)

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun
27	28	29	30	1 Education Centre In-service Courses for Primary School Teachers	2 Education Centre In-service Courses for Primary School Teachers	3 Education Centre In-service Courses for Primary School Teachers
4 Education Centre In-service Courses for Primary School Teachers	5 Education Centre In-service Courses for Primary School Teachers	6 Education Centre In-service Courses for Primary School Teachers	7 Education Centre In-service Courses for Primary School Teachers	8 Education Centre In-service Courses for Primary School Teachers	9 Education Centre In-service Courses for Primary School Teachers	10 Education Centre In-service Courses for Primary School Teachers
11 Education Centre In-service Courses for Primary School Teachers	12 Education Centre In-service Courses for Primary School Teachers	13 Education Centre In-service Courses for Primary School Teachers	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

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August 2016



Irish Water Safety

Sábháilteacht Uisce na hÉireann



IWS Volunteer Stephen O'Toole demonstrates Basic Life Support to visitors at the National Ploughing Championships (Photo: Anne Marie Maher, Laois)

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun
1 August Bank Hol	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 Council Meeting	11	12	13	14
15 Education Centre In-service Courses for Primary School Teachers	16 Education Centre In-service Courses for Primary School Teachers	17 Education Centre In-service Courses for Primary School Teachers	18 Education Centre In-service Courses for Primary School Teachers	19 Education Centre In-service Courses for Primary School Teachers	20 In-service Courses Nipper Open Water Championships, Co Waterford / Mayo / Louth	21 In-service Courses Junior Open Water Championships, Co Waterford / Mayo / Louth
22	23	24	25	26 National Open Water Referees "B" Course, Rosstownlagh, Co Donegal	27 National Open Water Nippers Champion- ships, Rosstownlagh, Co Donegal	28 National Open Water Junior Champion- ships, Rosstownlagh, Co Donegal
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11

Notes

- August 20 Munster Provincial Nipper Open Water Championships, Co Waterford.
Ulster/Connaught Provincial Nipper Open Water Championships, Co Mayo.
Leinster Provincial Nipper Open Water Championships, Co Louth.
- August 21 Munster Provincial Junior Open Water Championships, Co Waterford.
Leinster Provincial Junior Open Water Championships, Co Louth.
Ulster/Connaught Provincial Junior Open Water Championships, Co Mayo.



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September 2016



Irish Water Safety

Sábháilteacht Uisce na hÉireann



Odhran Savage battles conditions at the National 2015 Surf Lifesaving Championships, Spanish Point, Co Clare. (Photo: David Branigan, www.oceansport.ie)

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun
29	30	31	1 World Lifesaving Championships Junior & Senior, Netherlands	2 World Lifesaving Championships Junior & Senior, Netherlands	3 World Lifesaving Championships Junior & Senior, Netherlands	4 World Lifesaving Championships Junior & Senior, Netherlands
5 World Lifesaving Championships Junior & Senior, Netherlands	6 World Lifesaving Championships Junior & Senior, Netherlands	7 World Lifesaving Championships Junior & Senior, Netherlands	8 World Lifesaving Championships Junior & Senior, Netherlands	9 World Lifesaving Championships Junior & Senior, Netherlands	10 World Suicide Prevention Day World Lifesaving Championships Junior & Senior, Netherlands	11 World Lifesaving Championships Junior & Senior, Netherlands
12 World Lifesaving Championships Junior & Senior, Netherlands	13 World Lifesaving Championships Junior & Senior, Netherlands	14 World Lifesaving Championships Junior & Senior, Netherlands	15 World Lifesaving Championships Junior & Senior, Netherlands	16	17	18
19	20 National Ploughing Championships, Ratheniska, Co Laois	21 National Ploughing Championships, Ratheniska, Co Laois	22 National Ploughing Championships, Ratheniska, Co Laois	23	24 National Open Water Championships, Tramore, Co Waterford	25
26	27 WSDO Seminar, Tramore, Co Waterford	28	29	30	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9

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October 2016



Irish Water Safety

Sábháilteacht Uisce na hÉireann



Lily Barrett secures Gold in the board race at the European Junior & Masters Lifesaving Championships 2015. (Photo: Oisín McGrath, Clare)

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
3	4	5 Council Meeting	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15 National Examiner's Conference	16
17	18	19	20	21	22 Designated Liaison Person's Seminar	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 October Bank Hol	1	2	3	4	4	5

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November 2016



Irish Water Safety

Sábháilteacht Uisce na hÉireann



Irish lifesaving squad members from Wexford enjoying a squad camp in Ballyshannon. Bill Milne, Cameron Steel and Matthew Arthur. (Photo: Colette Steele, Wexford)

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun
31	1	2	3	4	5 Irish Fly Fair, Galway	6 Irish Fly Fair, Galway
7	8 National Awards Ceremony	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11

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December 2016



Irish Water Safety

Sábháilteacht Uisce na hÉireann



Mary Cash, Josephine Connors, Celine Cash & Sally Murphy of the Bunclody Traveller Family Support Group with their water safety certificates. (Photo: Thelma Blehein, Wexford)

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
5 International Volunteer Day	6	7 Council Meeting	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25 Christmas Day
26 St Stephen's Day	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3	4	7	8	9	10

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Irish Water Safety

Sábháilteacht Uisce na hÉireann

WHAT WE DO...

Teach swimming, lifesaving, water confidence, safety, survival, rescue skills and basic life support. Courses are provided nationwide to the general public and also to children as part of the primary school curriculum. Many qualifications such as our Pool and Beach Lifeguarding Awards are recognised internationally.

Arrange conferences, lectures and demonstrations to Local Authorities, Government Agencies, NGO's, schools, Colleges and members of the public.

Publish literature to promote water safety and target at-risk groups. We provide publications for all aquatic activities to assist the public adhere to best practices.

Our volunteers carry out Risk Assessments on bathing areas and waterways nationwide that may pose a particular risk to the public, in order to make them safer by the erection of Public Rescue Equipment, signage and other necessary facilities. We also advise and assist Local Authorities, state agencies and private enterprises on matters relating to water safety and we complete Public Rescue Equipment checks.

Our staff support the work of approximately 4,000 volunteer members and we also administer approximately 250 people who are commercially delivering swimming, lifesaving and CPR training.

Beach Lifeguards are trained and tested by our examiners for the Local Authorities, prior to the annual summer season each year.

Train and examine rescue boat crews for the Community Inshore Rescue Services.

Promote marine safety along with other members of the Marine Safety Working Group and the Irish Marine Search and Rescue Committee.

National and local media help build public awareness by actively communicating our safety messages to the public.

Press releases target the seasonal hazards at sea, on our inland waterways and other aquatic environments.

Analysis and provision of drowning statistics that enables effective targeting of "at risk" groups in Ireland.

Work with a range of organisations to help reduce the high number of drownings by suicide annually.

Organise the Annual National Lifesaving Championships; some of our members then go on to compete in international events each year.

Organise the National Water Safety Awards Ceremony. The "JUST IN TIME" Rescue Award and other awards recognize people's work, providing training and promoting Water Safety in Ireland.

Partners from the private sector sponsor the delivery of messages to key "at risk" groups.

Provide information on the locations of Lifeguarded waterways in Ireland.

Public and private bodies call on us to make submissions on water safety related matters.

Maintain a comprehensive websites of water safety advice, publications and courses.

IWS is registered charity CHY 16289

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National Lifesaving Championships 1957-58



Dublin Ladies Lifesaving Team 1962

THE HISTORY OF IRISH WATER SAFETY

Author *Tiarnan O'Sullivan*

*...from 1945 to today... the inspiring communities
and people that have relentlessly pursued water safety
and lifesaving development throughout the country...*

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