



Irish Water Safety
Sábháilteacht Uisce na hÉireann

2017

Together, let's bring drownings down



A Christmas Message from the Chairman of Irish Water Safety (IWS)

I am delighted to present to you the IWS Calendar 2017, brought to you through the kind and generous support of a number of sponsors, to whom I extend our grateful appreciation. You'll find a range of planned activities listed in the calendar that reflect the wide and varied remit of our work to promote water safety.

2016 was a year of further growth and consolidation. Our membership has expanded significantly to a point where at the time of writing we have 4,738 members nationwide. Further evidence of this growth is reflected in the fact that thirty IWS Examiners and 106 IWS Instructors qualified this year. The rate at which you, our members, are coming through the ranks has gone from strength to strength as volunteers teach swimming, lifesaving, basic life support, rescue skills and the promotion of water safety awareness to the public. The number of lives saved and aquatic accidents avoided as a result can never be fully enumerated although one figure that brings home the importance of your work is the number of rescues actioned by Lifeguards each year, a figure that reached a total of 649 this summer. These same Lifeguards, trained and assessed by Irish Water Safety, administered first aid on 4,210 occasions and reunited with their loved ones, a total of 662 lost children found wandering alone by the water's edge. If those numbers seem considerable then you will find it significant to note that on 29,695 occasions, Lifeguards took specific actions to prevent an aquatic-related accident. The public also took proactive steps to safeguard themselves and family by seeking advice from patrolling Lifeguards on a total of 460,756 occasions. These figures speak for themselves in terms of the need for people to take even greater steps to be aware of the dangers and of the important role that IWS has in safeguarding Irish society.

As the new Chairman of Irish Water Safety (IWS), I take particular delight in acknowledging and thanking all the members of IWS for the tremendous voluntary work that you undertake nationwide throughout the entire year. I especially wish to highlight the excellent work of our Summer Weeks Organisers who are, even now, engaged in preparations to ensure that the Summer Weeks 2017 will be delivered successfully throughout the country. The popularity of these courses spans generations and although this summer's weather was not kind to our Instructors, it did not affect the enthusiasm of the children who availed of the swimming and lifesaving classes at Training Centres in aquatic environments nationwide.

In the recent past the Technical Committee followed up on excellent work by the Sports Commission to establish the concept of Lifesaving Training Centres (LTC). An LTC is a location where one or more of the following disciplines are taught by the Volunteers of Irish Water Safety: swimming, lifesaving, basic life support, pool lifeguard, beach lifeguard, inland open water lifeguard or the sport of lifesaving. Our Water Safety Area Committees already have or in due course will establish, oversee and run LTCs. Where the LTC is in a swimming pool, a sign is now available from HQ stating that the pool is an IWS Training Centre.

In terms of the Sport of Lifesaving, Irish Water Safety's National teams had their best performances ever abroad, bringing home the highest number of medals from a World Lifesaving Championships than ever before. Every member of each team, be they juniors, seniors, masters or coaches, played a pivotal role in achieving this success and we congratulate them and celebrate their achievements.



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Our Junior Lifeguard Award Programme is an exciting, progressive development. The brainchild of the Lifeguard Commission, it welcomes children from the age of eight to participate in a five-tiered award scheme. Alongside the water work there are Information Sheets, Activity Sheets, Record Sheets and certification at every level. The handbook is comprehensive as well as being attractive and colourful and is already proving a huge success with children, swim teachers and leisure centres.

Over the past two years, the Swimming Commission has been dedicated to the National Swim Teacher's Award joint project with Swim Ireland. Many meetings have been held, position papers produced and two joint pilot courses prepared and delivered. Overlapping with this work they have been developing and updating all IWS Swimming syllabi and resources. These will be ready for launch in Jan 2017.

Thanks to some special government funding and sponsorship, we were able to deliver a number of national marketing campaigns during the year to highlight the dangers of our waters. Our Christmas campaign will be seen by over 300,000 cinema goers on 350 screens nationwide. The thirty-second advert, available on our online channels, reflects the fact that 133 people drown on average each year and calls for us all to keep their memory alive by both encouraging and practicing water safety. The need for this call to action is perhaps most tragically reflected in the fact that thirty children aged fourteen and under drowned in the last ten years. Consequently, I am grateful to those members who supported the work of our Education Development Officer in promoting our "Primary Aquatics Water Safety" programme (PAWS), part of the official curriculum, to schools nationwide.

At this time of year in particular, our thoughts are with the families of those members who have passed. This year, we lost a volunteer Instructor in Cavan, Examiners in Monaghan, the Curragh and Westmeath and a Water Safety Development Officer in Kerry. We also lost Mr Bobby Molloy who having become Minister for Local Government, established Irish Water Safety as a statutory body. I am also conscious of the number of members who have lost family members themselves. I extend on your behalf, our deepest sympathies to all families who are feeling such loss.

2016 brings to a conclusion the five-year term of the present IWS Council. I wish to thank each member of the outgoing Council for their commitment and dedication to ensuring that the 2012 – 2017 Programme was successfully completed. I look forward with confidence to the formation of a new Council that will build on the work of the former.

I wish you and your loved ones good health and happiness for the festive season. I hope you enjoy the fellowship of new friends, and cherish the company of family in this season of loving and sharing.

Together let's bring drownings down in 2017.

Martin O'Sullivan
Chairman



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January | 2017

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun
26	27	28	29	30	31	1 • New Year's Day
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13 • International Life Saving Europe Commissions meetings, Denmark	14 • International Life Saving Europe Commissions meetings, Denmark	15 • International Life Saving Europe Commissions meetings, Denmark
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26 • IPPN Annual Conference	27 • IPPN Annual Conference • Holiday World Show, RDS	28 • Holiday World Show, RDS	29 • Swim Tutor's Seminar • Holiday World Show, RDS
30 • Deadline for WSACs to submit year-end financial reporting forms	31	1	2	3	4	5

The County Councils of Mayo, Kilkenny, Kildare, Donegal, Wexford, Fingal and Clare.
Cork and Dublin City Councils and Cavan Water Safety Area Committee.



The sun sets over Inishturk island as beach Lifeguard Doireann Dever prepares to lower the beach flag on Carrowniskey beach on the very last day of the season. Photo: Doireann Dever

Notes

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Irish Water Safety, The Long Walk, Galway
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February | 2017

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun
30	31	<i>Council Meeting</i> 1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	<i>International Life Saving Board and Commissions meetings, Spain</i> 16	<i>International Life Saving Board and Commissions meetings, Spain</i> 17	<i>Ireland Angling Expo, Ntl. Show Centre, Swords</i> <i>Ntl. Still Water Referees "B & C" Course, Limerick</i> <i>Ntl. Junior, Senior & Masters Still Water Championships (12-8pm)</i> <i>International Life Saving Board and Commissions meetings, Spain</i> 18	<i>Ireland Angling Expo, Ntl. Show Centre, Swords</i> <i>Ntl. Still Water Referees "B & C" Course, Limerick</i> <i>Ntl. Junior, Senior & Masters Still Water Championships (12-8pm)</i> <i>International Life Saving Board and Commissions meetings, Spain</i> 19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12

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Rory McEvoy on his way to a silver world medal in the Junior World Surf Lifesaving championships in Eindhoven. Photo: Margaret Purcell, Clare.

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March | 2017

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

The County Councils of Mayo, Kilkenny, Kildare, Donegal, Wexford, Fingal and Clare.
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All bar one face into the open waters of a Water Safety Week on Inishturk island.
Photo: James McLoughlin, Mayo

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April

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Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • INTO Annual Conference 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beach Lifeguard Course, Wexford • INTO Annual Conference 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beach Lifeguard Course, Wexford • INTO Annual Conference 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beach Lifeguard Course, Wexford • Water Safety Development Officer's Conference, Waterford 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beach Lifeguard Course, Wexford • Water Safety Development Officer's Conference, Waterford 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beach Lifeguard Course, Wexford • Swim Tutor's Course Part - 2 • World Masters Games - Surf Life Saving, Auckland NZ • ILSE Risk Assessor Training Course • National Nippers Still Water Championship UL Limerick 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swim Tutor's Course - Part 2 • World Masters Games - Surf Life Saving, Auckland New Zealand • ILSE Risk Assessor Training Course 23
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World masters Games - Surf Life Saving, Auckland New Zealand 24	25	26	27	28	29	30
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

The County Councils of Mayo, Kilkenny, Kildare, Donegal, Wexford, Fingal and Clare.
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James Brennan, trained as a Lifeguard by IWS Mayo, putting out the safety buoy at Lough Carra, Co Mayo. Photo: Caroline Brennan, Mayo.

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May

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

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Swimming in sand at the Beach Flags race, Rosstownlagh, Co Donegal.
Photo: Clodagh Carthy, Donegal

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June

| 2017

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
• June Bank Holiday						
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
• National Water Safety Awareness Week	• National Water Safety Awareness Week	• National Water Safety Awareness Week	• National Water Safety Awareness Week	• National Water Safety Awareness Week	• National Water Safety Awareness Week	• National Water Safety Awareness Week
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
• Nationwide Summer Weeks Classes Commence				• Deadline for WSACs to request grant		
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9

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Colouring the horizon on Brittas Bay is Wicklow's Surf Lifesaving team prior to the Regional Nipper Competitions. Photo: Elaine Noble, Wicklow.

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July

| 2017

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
• Education Centre In-service Courses for Primary School Teachers	• Education Centre In-service Courses for Primary School Teachers	• Education Centre In-service Courses for Primary School Teachers	• Education Centre In-service Courses for Primary School Teachers	• Education Centre In-service Courses for Primary School Teachers	• Education Centre In-service Courses for Primary School Teachers	• Education Centre In-service Courses for Primary School Teachers
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
• Education Centre In-service Courses for Primary School Teachers	• Education Centre In-service Courses for Primary School Teachers	• Education Centre In-service Courses for Primary School Teachers	• Education Centre In-service Courses for Primary School Teachers	• Education Centre In-service Courses for Primary School Teachers		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
			• World Games 2017, Wroclaw, Poland	• World Games 2017, Wroclaw, Poland	• World Games 2017, Wroclaw, Poland	• World Games 2017, Wroclaw, Poland
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
• World Games 2017, Wroclaw, Poland	• World Games 2017, Wroclaw, Poland	• World Games 2017, Wroclaw, Poland • Council Meeting	• World Games 2017, Wroclaw, Poland	• World Games 2017, Wroclaw, Poland	• World Games 2017, Wroclaw, Poland	• World Games 2017, Wroclaw, Poland
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	1	2	3	4	5	6

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Dublin's Nick Corish, 92, has taught water safety for 76 years, capturing the attention of thousands, including last summer's Water Safety Week in Cahore, Co Wexford. Photo: Anne Ryan, Wexford.

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August

| 2017

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
• August Bank Holiday						
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
• Education Centre In-service Courses for Primary School Teachers	• Education Centre In-service Courses for Primary School Teachers	• Education Centre In-service Courses for Primary School Teachers	• Education Centre In-service Courses for Primary School Teachers	• Education Centre In-service Courses for Primary School Teachers		
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
				• National Open Water Referees "B & C" Course, Wexford	• National Open Water Referees "B & C" Course, Wexford	• National Open Water Referees "B & C" Course, Wexford
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10

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Thankfully the water safety class happens outside, not inside the van.
Photo: Colette Allen, Wexford

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September | 2017

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27	28	29	31	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Senior and Masters Surf Championships Rosslowlagh, Co. Donegal 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Lifesaving Championships Junior & Senior, Netherlands 3
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> European Championships National Teams, Junior & Senior, Masters Interclubs & IRB Belgium 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> European Championships National Teams, Junior & Senior, Masters Interclubs & IRB Belgium 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> European Championships National Teams, Junior & Senior, Masters Interclubs & IRB Belgium 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> European Championships National Teams, Junior & Senior, Masters Interclubs & IRB Belgium 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> European Championships National Teams, Junior & Senior, Masters Interclubs & IRB Belgium 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> European Championships National Teams, Junior & Senior, Masters Interclubs & IRB Belgium World Suicide Prevention Day 10
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> European Championships National Teams, Junior & Senior, Masters Interclubs & IRB Belgium 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> European Championships National Teams, Junior & Senior, Masters Interclubs & IRB Belgium 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> European Championships National Teams, Junior & Senior, Masters Interclubs & IRB Belgium 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> European Championships National Teams, Junior & Senior, Masters Interclubs & IRB Belgium 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> European Championships National Teams, Junior & Senior, Masters Interclubs & IRB Belgium 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> European Championships National Teams, Junior & Senior, Masters Interclubs & IRB Belgium 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> European Championships National Teams, Junior & Senior, Masters Interclubs & IRB Belgium 17
18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Ploughing Championships, Tullamore, Co Offaly 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Ploughing Championships, Tullamore, Co Offaly 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Ploughing Championships, Tullamore, Co Offaly 21	22	23	24
25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water Safety Development Officer's Seminar, Mullingar 26	27	28	29	30	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8

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Leah McMahon & Aoife Madigan (age 13) running for silver medal in the board rescue.
Photo: Caitriona McMahon, Clare.

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October | 2017

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
2	3	• Council Meeting	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	• International Life Saving Board and Commissions meetings, Canada	• International Life Saving Board and Commissions meetings, Canada
• International Life Saving Board and Commissions meetings, Canada	• World Conference on Drowning Prevention, Vancouver, Canada	• World Conference on Drowning Prevention, Vancouver, Canada	• World Conference on Drowning Prevention, Vancouver, Canada	• Designated Liaison Person's Seminar	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
• October Bank Holiday	31	1	2	3	4	5



IWS members from Donaghmede complete a Beach Lifeguard training course on Howth beach. Photo: Ronan Kelly, Killester, Dublin.

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November | 2017

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

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Lifesavers for life, Eva and Ellie McGinley with the Donegal Nippers on Rossnowlagh beach.
Photo: Emma McGinley, Donegal.

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December | 2017

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

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Three girls competing at the Nippers National Surf Lifesaving Championships from Sligo Surf Lifesaving Club. Photo: Debbie Woodward, Sligo..

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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 4,500 volunteer members and we also administer those teaching swimming, lifesaving and CPR training on a commercial basis

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



Irish Water Safety

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