WATERFORD CHAMBER

Network

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OVERALL WATERFORD BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

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WATERFORD'S BID FOR CLIPPER RACE 2028

EARLY CHRISTMAS *for* EUNICE POWER
SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD WINNER AT THE WATERFORD BUSINESS AWARDS

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Building a stronger South East



BY MARIAN WALSH, PRESIDENT, WATERFORD CHAMBER

Writing my first editorial as President of Waterford Chamber, I feel an enormous sense of pride in being entrusted with this role. As someone born and raised in Portlaw, with deep personal and business ties to Waterford, it is a very special honour.

The Chamber has represented Waterford's business community since 1787. To follow in the footsteps of those who have served it over almost 240 years brings a real sense of responsibility. Think of the changes its members have witnessed in that time, and the generations of businesses that have helped shape the Waterford we know today. I am proud to play a small part in that continuing story.

I want to thank our outgoing President, Éadaoin Carrick, for her commitment and leadership, and Gerald Hurley, the Chamber team, Board and members for their warm support. I also owe a sincere thank you to my family and colleagues, whose encouragement allows me to take on this role.

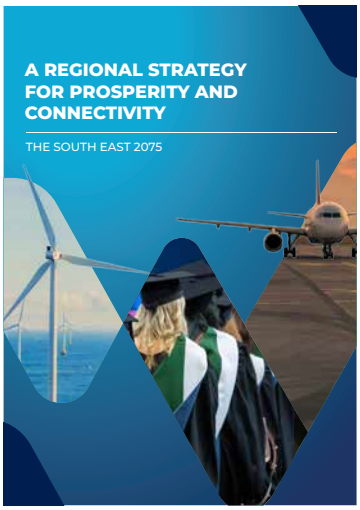
Having helped build a business myself, I know the pride that comes with creating employment, winning a new client or seeing a colleague develop and succeed. I also know the worry that comes with responsibility. That experience will very much shape how I approach my presidency. I want our members to feel heard, understood and supported.

SOUTH EAST

When accepting the presidency, I spoke about the importance of a stronger, more united South East. I firmly believe that a stronger Waterford strengthens the region, and a stronger region strengthens Waterford. We have far more to gain by supporting one another and presenting a shared case than by pursuing every opportunity separately.

I look forward to working with our neighbouring Chambers on *The South East 2075* strategy. It gives us an opportunity to look beyond immediate pressures and consider the region we want our children and grandchildren to inherit. Our task now is to agree common priorities, make a collective case to Government and keep working together to secure meaningful commitments.

For me, success means people being able to build rewarding careers and



fulfilling lives here. It means giving our graduates reasons to stay, and those who have left reasons to come home. It means businesses having the infrastructure, skills and space they need to grow.

RENEWABLE ENERGY

Renewable energy is a particular priority. Offshore wind, including the opportunity presented by Tonn Nua, could bring significant benefits to the South East. We need to prepare now so that local businesses and communities can participate. I want us to pursue the potential for a

regional energy park and the employment, training and supply-chain opportunities that could follow.

We must also tell our story with greater confidence. Our ports, airport, road connections, SETU and established businesses give us a strong foundation. We need to bring those strengths together when making the case for investment, while being clear about the improvements and Government support required.

Waterford city centre is equally important to me. I want to see more people shopping, working, living and spending time there throughout the year. That will require cooperation between retailers, hospitality businesses, property owners, the local authority and the wider community.

FUNDING SOLUTIONS

Through my professional work, I see how the gap between construction costs and completed property values can prevent worthwhile projects from proceeding. I want us to press for practical Government-backed funding solutions that help unlock the offices, hotels and commercial spaces our economy needs. We cannot expect businesses to expand here without making room for them.

Alongside these ambitions, the everyday concerns of our members matter enormously to me. My door is open. Whether you have an idea, a concern, an opportunity or a problem you would like help with, please get in touch. I will do whatever I can to assist. You do not need to wait for a Chamber event or a formal introduction to start a conversation.

I would like to warmly congratulate all the nominees and winners of the Waterford Business Awards held on Friday, 13th November. Putting your business forward takes confidence, and the recognition is a credit to you and the teams behind you. It is wonderful to see local enterprise celebrated.

I also want to acknowledge the work that goes unseen: the difficult decisions, the late nights and the responsibility of making sure everyone gets paid. Sometimes, keeping the lights on and paying the bills is an achievement in itself. If we are managing that, keeping people in work and serving our customers, then we are all winners. We should allow ourselves some pride in that too.

SHOP LOCAL

With Christmas approaching, I have one particular plea: please support local businesses wherever you can. Buy a gift from a local shop, book a meal, choose a Think Waterford First Gift Card or use a local supplier. For those organising staff gifts or celebrations, consider how that spending could benefit another Waterford business.

Behind so many businesses are people who also support our clubs, charities and community events. This is our opportunity to support them. A busy festive season can make a real difference as they prepare for the quieter months ahead.

To our members, your teams and your families, I wish you good health, a happy and prosperous Christmas, and time to enjoy the company of those closest to you.

Thank you for the trust you have placed in me. I look forward to working with you and doing my best for Waterford and the South East.



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A passion for food, a love for Waterford

There are few people who fly the flag for Waterford quite as enthusiastically as Eunice Power. From championing local producers and putting our food on the map to bringing people together through the Waterford Festival of Food, her contribution to the county is hard to measure. Recognised with the *Judges' Special Recognition Award* at this year's Waterford Business Awards, here she chats to Lynda Lawton showing what can happen when passion, energy and a genuine love of place come together.



Presenting the award to Eunice Power were Tommie Murphy, President,Dungarvan & West Waterford Chamber; Eddie Flynn, Faithlegg; Marian Walsh, President, Waterford Chamber; Mary O'Neill, WLR.

If there is one person who can get people excited about food, it is Eunice Power. Whether she is talking about a local producer, championing a Waterford food business or bringing another exciting festival programme to life, her enthusiasm is infectious. And you get the feeling that she never really switches off!

Eunice has become one of Ireland's best-known food ambassadors, but what makes her contribution so special is that her work has always been about much more than food itself. It is about people, community, enterprise and giving local talent the recognition it deserves.

That was reflected in her receiving the *Judges' Special Recognition Award* at the Waterford Business Awards, presented by Eddie Flynn of Faithlegg, who said: "Eunice is a passionate ambassador for Waterford, consistently raising the profile of the county and helping position it as a destination for food tourism and culinary excellence."

CHAMPIONING THE FOODIES

Reflecting on the award, Eunice said: "I was genuinely delighted and very humbled to receive this recognition. It means so much more when it comes from home.

"So much of what we do through the Waterford Festival of Food is about celebrating other people, our producers, chefs, hospitality businesses and the many individuals who work so hard to make Waterford such a wonderful food destination. To have my career and that work recognised in this way means an awful lot to me. I see it as an award for everyone who has supported me and the festival in what we are trying to achieve over the years."

As CEO of the Waterford Festival of Food, Eunice has helped create something that has become a real highlight in the county's calendar. The festival is now much more than a weekend of food events. It is a celebration of everything that makes Waterford's food offering special, from our talented chefs and award-winning producers to our farmers, artisan makers, hospitality businesses and the communities that support them.

Eunice has a wonderful ability to bring all these elements together, creating an atmosphere that is welcoming, inclusive and full of energy. And it is that ability to bring people together that is perhaps one of her greatest strengths. It is what has made her one of our favourite celebrity chefs, her warmth, personality, at times eccentricity and infectious passion for food are a joy to watch on our screens.

SHARING THE MESSAGE

Waterford has an extraordinary food story to tell. We have the coastline, the countryside, the produce, the people and the culinary talent. What Eunice has consistently done is connect those pieces, creating opportunities for businesses to collaborate, for producers to reach new audiences and for visitors to discover what makes this part of Ireland so special.

She understands that food tourism is about much more than attracting people to a restaurant or an event. It is about creating an experience and giving visitors a reason to stay, explore and come back again. It is about the farmer whose produce appears on a restaurant menu, the artisan business introducing its products to a new audience, the hotel welcoming festival visitors and the local café or restaurant benefiting from increased footfall.

Looking ahead, Eunice has big ambitions for the festival and believes there is an opportunity to take its reach even further across the county.

"I would love to see the Waterford Festival of Food continue to grow and become an even bigger celebration of everything Waterford has to offer. We have fantastic food producers, restaurants, hospitality businesses and communities right across the county, and I want to make sure they all have an opportunity to be part of it. Over the coming years, our ambition is to expand the festival geographically, bringing more events and experiences into the city and towns throughout Waterford. There is so much talent and so many wonderful food stories waiting to be discovered, and we want to give them the platform they deserve."

Clem Jacob Hire's winning formula

■ BY **LYNDA LAWTON**, WATERFORD CHAMBER

Waterford-based Clem Jacob Hire has enjoyed an extraordinary few weeks, taking home three major accolades, including the coveted title of Overall Waterford Business of the Year at the Waterford Business Awards.

It was an emotional and unforgettable night for Clem Jacob and his team as the company was recognised for its outstanding contribution to business in Waterford, taking home the Environmental & Sustainability Award before receiving the ultimate accolade of the evening, Overall Waterford Business of the Year.

Presented by Mayor of Waterford, Cllr Liam Brazil, the overall award marked a significant milestone for the family business, which is celebrating 20 years in operation. It recognises not only the company's commercial success, but also its investment in innovation, sustainability, its people and the wider community.

For Clem, the moment was about much more than another trophy. Visibly emotional as he accepted the award, he paid tribute to his family and staff, reflecting on the challenges and determination that have shaped the business over two decades.

"I just can't believe it. I stood on an international stage receiving an award with my son Sean just a few weeks ago, but that pales in comparison to tonight. This means everything to me and my family. To be recognised by my peers at home, it's unbelievable.

"There have been plenty of ups and downs over the past 20 years, days where I didn't know if we could keep going, but tonight has made it all worth it. It is by far the best day of my business life. Thank you to my family, our team and to everyone who made this possible."

The response captured the significance of the occasion as the entire room stood to their feet in recognition of Clem. While international recognition is an incredible achievement, being celebrated by the local business community, among peers and fellow Waterford businesses, clearly held a very special place for Clem.



INTERNATIONAL STAGE

The Waterford Business Awards were the culmination of an exceptional run of success for Clem Jacob Hire. Just weeks earlier, the company had secured international recognition, winning the Sustainability Award at the *2026 International Awards for Powered Access* (IAPAs) in Istanbul. Competing against major international names, including Dingli, Haulotte and Johnson Arabia, the Waterford company was recognised for its sustainability transformation, an impressive achievement for a business that started out locally in 2006.

Over the past 20 years, Clem Jacob Hire has grown into a well-established name across Waterford and the wider region, providing plant and equipment hire, access solutions, event hire and training services. Its equipment and expertise support everything from major construction projects to community events, often working behind the scenes to help bring projects and occasions to life.

The company's journey has been built on hard work, determination and a willingness to adapt. While its services and customer base have evolved, its local roots and family values remain at the heart of the business.

SUSTAINABILITY

A key factor behind the company's recent success has been its commitment to sustainability, with significant investment in practical solutions that are changing the way it operates.

One of its most notable projects is the development of a practically off-grid training centre, powered by solar panels and battery storage. The company has also invested in electric-powered access equipment and battery generators, helping to reduce reliance on traditional energy sources while offering customers more sustainable options.

For Clem, sustainability is not simply about meeting an industry requirement or following a trend. It is about making long-term decisions that benefit the business, its customers and the environment.

"I'm incredibly proud of what the team has achieved. Sustainability is something we have been working towards for a long time, and it is rewarding to see that investment recognised both at home and internationally."

The company's approach demonstrates how a local business can embrace innovation and make meaningful changes through investment, forward planning and a commitment to doing things differently.

The recognition at both the International Awards for Powered Access and the Waterford Business Awards is a testament to the work that has gone into making sustainability a central part of the company's future.

A COMMITMENT TO WATERFORD

Beyond the business itself, Clem Jacob Hire has always maintained a strong connection with the Waterford community. Supporting local events, organisations and initiatives has been an important part of its story, with the company contributing to a range of activities over the years.

Its involvement with Spraoi International Street Arts Festival includes sponsorship, equipment and technical support for the parade, while the company has also supported the Waterford Viking Marathon.

These contributions reflect a wider commitment to the city and county, recognising the importance of local businesses in supporting the events, organisations and people that make Waterford such a vibrant place to live and work.

That commitment extends to supporting other local businesses and keeping spending within the local economy. As a strong advocate of Waterford Chamber's *Think Waterford First* initiative, Clem Jacob Hire actively supports the Think Waterford First Gift Cards, using them for staff Christmas bonuses and in-house prizes.

"We are passionate about supporting local businesses, just like they support us. So we are completely committed to supporting the Think Waterford First Gift Cards, be it for Christmas bonuses or in-house prizes. They ensure the money is kept locally and the lads love them because it gives variety on where they can shop."

It is a practical example of the company's belief in supporting the local business community, ensuring that success is shared and that money continues to circulate within Waterford.

MORE TO COME

As Clem Jacob Hire celebrates its 20th anniversary, the recent awards provide an opportunity to reflect on just how far the company has come. From its beginnings in Waterford in 2006 to becoming an internationally recognised business, its journey is one of resilience, ambition and continuous investment.

But the celebrations are also about the people behind the business. Clem is quick to acknowledge the role of his family, his son Sean and his sister Carmel and the wider team, including general manager Ray, as well as Maria and Colin who have been with him from the very start, plus each and every one of his incredible team whose dedication and hard work have helped build the company into what it is today.

The three awards, the Environmental & Sustainability Award and Overall Waterford Business of the Year at the Waterford Business Awards, alongside the international IAPA Sustainability Award, represent recognition at both local and international level.

For Waterford, the success of Clem Jacob Hire is another example of the talent, ambition and innovation that exists within the region's business community.

Twenty years on, the company remains firmly rooted in Waterford, but its ambitions and achievements now reach far beyond it. And if the past few weeks are anything to go by, there is plenty more to come.

Congratulations to Clem, Sean and the entire team at Clem Jacob Hire on an outstanding achievement and a very well-deserved year of recognition.





The Will to Succeed

A lifetime of business ambition, family legacy and an unwavering commitment to the future of the South East have earned William Bolster one of Waterford's highest business accolades. Here he speaks to Lynda Lawton about business milestones and building momentum at Waterford Airport.

If you know William Bolster, you'll know that he is not someone who lacks ambition. He has a real grá for business, a strong belief in Waterford and, perhaps most importantly, an instinctive determination to see things happen rather than simply talk about them.

There is always something happening when you catch up with William, whether it's a new business opportunity, a development within the Bolster Group or, more recently, the next stage in the long-awaited redevelopment of Waterford Airport. He has a way of looking beyond what is immediately in front of him and seeing what could be possible, not just for his own business but for the wider region.

So, it was particularly fitting to see him recognised as *Entrepreneur of the Year* at the Waterford Business Awards. The award celebrates not only his achievements in business but also the time, energy and determination he has invested in projects that he believes will make a lasting difference to Waterford and the South East.

Presenting the award, Suzanne Parker, Parker Law said: "Through his business leadership and determination to make a lasting difference, William embodies the true spirit of entrepreneurship."

A FAMILY AFFAIR

And there is plenty to more to celebrate this year. The Bolster Group is marking an incredible 60 years in business, a milestone that reflects the foundations laid by his father and the hard work, commitment and entrepreneurial spirit that have carried the business through six decades. William has continued that legacy, building on what was established while always looking towards the next opportunity.

But while family business and entrepreneurship are a huge part of William's story, his involvement in Waterford Airport has brought another dimension to his contribution to the region. Having spent years championing the project and working to secure the private investment needed to move it forward, he is now seeing that vision become a reality.

UP, UP AND AWAY

There is a genuine sense of excitement about what lies ahead. For William, the airport has never simply been about getting planes in and out of Waterford. It is about giving the South East the connectivity, confidence and opportunities it needs to compete, grow and attract investment. Speaking about progress at the airport, William said: "The turning of the sod was a hugely significant moment, not just for Waterford Airport but for the entire South East. There has been a tremendous amount of work behind the scenes to get us to this point, and it is particularly rewarding to see something that has been talked about for so many years now moving into the delivery phase.

"Securing a private investor was a critical step in making this happen. We now have the opportunity to develop an airport that can serve the needs of our region, attract new business and investment, and open up international connections that



William Bolster pictured at Waterford Airport accepting his *Entrepreneur of the Year Award* from Suzanne Parker, Parker Law Solicitors, Marian Walsh, Waterford Chamber President, and Gerald Hurley, Waterford Chamber CEO.

will benefit companies, communities and visitors alike.

"We have always believed that Waterford and the South East deserve the infrastructure and connectivity to compete on a much bigger stage. This is about thinking long-term, creating opportunities for future generations and ensuring that our region is not left behind."

The redevelopment is expected to deliver significant benefits for the South East, which has a population of more than 650,000 people. For businesses, improved international connectivity has the potential to reduce reliance on Dublin Airport, make international travel more efficient and strengthen the region's appeal as a location for investment.

Tourism is another major opportunity. Direct access to Waterford would provide international visitors with a gateway to the region's coastline, heritage, mountains, hospitality and attractions, encouraging visitors to spend more time and money locally. The wider economic benefits could extend across accommodation, hospitality, retail, transport and tourism services.

The airport also has an important role to play in supporting the region's ambitions across technology, life sciences, advanced manufacturing and the green economy. As the South East seeks to attract high-value employment and retain its graduates, connectivity will be an increasingly important factor in securing investment and supporting business growth.

SOUTH EAST 2075

The development also complements the wider ambitions outlined in Waterford Chamber's *South East 2075* strategy, which sets out a long-term vision for a more prosperous, connected and competitive South East. Central to that vision is the creation of 45,000 new high-productivity jobs over the coming decades, supported by strategic infrastructure, investment and stronger regional collaboration.

William's contribution to the airport project reflects a broader commitment to ensuring that the South East realises its potential. His leadership demonstrates how entrepreneurial thinking can extend beyond individual business success to deliver lasting benefits for an entire region and makes him the perfect *Entrepreneur of the Year*.

Accepting the award, he said: "I am absolutely delighted and genuinely honoured to receive the Entrepreneur of the Year award at the Waterford Business Awards. Thank you to Waterford Chamber, Dungarvan & West Waterford Chamber, WLR, Parker Law and everyone involved in recognising the achievements of businesses across our region.

"I firmly believe that Waterford and the wider South East have enormous potential. We have the people, the talent and the ambition. We just need to continue thinking big, working together and having the confidence to make things happen."











Waterford Business Awards celebrate outstanding local success

The very best of Waterford's business community was celebrated at the Waterford Business Awards, which took place on 13th November at the Tower Hotel, before an audience of approximately 320 business leaders from across Waterford city and county.

The gala evening, hosted by WLR's Mary O'Neill and organised by Waterford Chamber, with the support of Dungarvan & West Waterford Chamber, WLR and Waterford City & County Council, recognised excellence, innovation and achievement across a diverse range of sectors, from emerging businesses and local enterprises to established companies making a significant contribution to the region.

The highlight of the evening came when Mayor of Waterford City & County, Cllr Liam Brazil, announced that the *Overall Waterford Business of the Year* for 2026 was Clem Jacob Hire. The company was recognised for its outstanding contribution to business in Waterford, its commitment to sustainability and its continued investment in innovation and the future of the business.

EXCELLENCE IN BUSINESS

Speaking at the event, Mayor of Waterford City & County, Cllr Liam Brazil, congratulated all the finalists and winners and paid tribute to the strength and ambition of Waterford's business community.

"Waterford has an incredibly diverse and ambitious business community, and tonight is an opportunity to recognise the people, teams and organisations who make such an important contribution to our city and county.

"Behind every successful business are people with vision, determination and a willingness to take risks, innovate and create opportunities for others. These awards celebrate that commitment and the positive impact businesses have on employment, investment and the wider community.

"Congratulations to all our finalists and winners. They are wonderful ambassadors for Waterford and demonstrate the talent and potential that exists across our region."

SPECIAL AWARD WINNERS

The special awards recognised individuals and organisations making an exceptional contribution to business and the wider Waterford community.

William Bolster received the *Entrepreneur of the Year Award*, recognising his entrepreneurial leadership and contribution to business and investment in Waterford. The *Judges' Special Recognition Award* went to Eunice Power, in recognition of her contribution to Waterford's food, hospitality and tourism sectors and her role in championing the county's food offering. The *Think Waterford First Award* was presented to Sanofi, recognising the importance of supporting and promoting Waterford as a place to do business and the contribution of companies that help strengthen the local economy.



WATERFORD BUSINESS AWARDS 2026

Winners

Best in Hospitality	Waterford Marina Hotel
Business of the Year (up to 20 employees in the South East)	European Regulatory Affairs
Business of the Year (up to 100 employees in the South East)	360 Bia Óg
Business of the Year (100+ employees in the South East)	Dawn Meats
Customer Service Excellence	Lean Industry 4.0
Entrepreneur of the Year	William Bolster
Environmental & Sustainability	Clem Jacob Hire
Excellence in Innovation	IBM Ireland
Marketing Excellence	Antiques Ireland
New Business of the Year	Aeroclime Refrigeration & HVAC
Not-For-Profit Award	Solas Cancer Support Centre
Retail Excellence	George Corbett Motors
Special Recognition Award	Eunice Power
Taste of Waterford Award	Merry's Gastro Pub
Think Waterford First Award	Sanofi
Visit Waterford Award	Waterford Walls
Overall Winner	Clem Jacob Hire

CELEBRATING LOCAL ENTERPRISE

The Awards provide an opportunity to celebrate achievement, recognise innovation and acknowledge the contribution of businesses of all sizes to employment, investment and the vitality of our city and county.

Marian Walsh, President of Waterford Chamber, congratulated all finalists and winners, saying: "The Waterford Business Awards are one of the highlights of our business calendar because they give us an opportunity to celebrate the people and businesses who make Waterford such a dynamic place to live and work. What stands out every year is the quality, ambition and diversity of the businesses operating across our city and county. From new enterprises finding their feet to established companies competing on a national and international stage, there is so much to be proud of.

"Congratulations to every finalist and winner. Their success is not just good for their individual businesses; it is good for Waterford, for employment and for the wider South East."

Waterford Chamber and Dungarvan & West Waterford Chamber extended their thanks to the sponsors, partners, judges and supporters who contributed to the success of the awards, and congratulated all those who were shortlisted.

THANKS TO ALL OUR SPONSORS

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A year of ambition, collaboration and progress for Waterford

BY GERALD HURLEY, CEO, WATERFORD CHAMBER

As I look back on 2026, I am struck by just how much has been achieved by Waterford Chamber and, more importantly, by the businesses we work alongside and support throughout the year. It has been a year of considerable activity, new initiatives, important conversations and, I believe, some significant steps forward in shaping the future of Waterford and the wider South East.

At the heart of everything we do is a simple objective: to ensure that Waterford is recognised as a place of ambition, opportunity and economic potential, and that our businesses have the support, connections and infrastructure they need to succeed.

SOUTH EAST 2075

One of the most significant milestones of the year was the publication of *The South East 2075: A Regional Strategy for Prosperity & Connectivity*. This has been a major undertaking and represents months of research, consultation and collaboration, and I want to thank Dr Ray Griffin and Niall Harrington in particular for their commitment to this. We have long argued that the South East needs a clear, coordinated and ambitious long-term vision, one that looks beyond individual projects and considers the region as a whole.

The strategy sets out that vision, supported by a comprehensive *Investment Case and Evidence Base*. It identifies the infrastructure, connectivity, education, governance and investment required to unlock the region's potential over the next 50 years. It is not simply a document to sit on a shelf. It is intended to be a roadmap for action and we were delighted to see the report referenced recently in the Dáil and being brought to the Taoiseach's attention. He has committed to engaging further on this and we look forward to meeting with him at the earliest opportunity.

The *Waterford City Region Advantage Dinner* at Faithlegg in September was undoubtedly one of the highlights of our Chamber calendar and provided the perfect opportunity to present the regional strategy. Bringing together international ambassadors and representatives, Oireachtas members, senior business leaders and representatives from across the five counties, the evening showcased the very best of Waterford's food, hospitality and culture, while also creating an opportunity for meaningful conversations about the region's future. It was a great example of what can be achieved when we bring people together with a shared ambition.

LOBBYING AND REPRESENTATION

Our advocacy work has continued to be a major priority throughout. The publication of the *South East Offshore Wind Economic Report* and its launch at the Port of Waterford was another important moment. With the Tonn Nua project representing an enormous opportunity for the region, we are determined that local businesses must be positioned to benefit from the investment, employment and supply chain opportunities that offshore wind will generate. The South East cannot afford to be passive when opportunities of this scale are emerging on our doorstep. Our engagement with ESB, now our Energy Partner, has also strengthened our ability to connect local businesses with this developing sector.

Other infrastructure priorities have remained firmly on our agenda, including sustainable transport, city and town centre regeneration and improved regional connectivity. The N24 remains a key priority, and it was great to see our joint efforts with neighbouring Chambers making national headlines this year. We have been campaigning for over two decades for the N24 to be delivered as a single strategic transport corridor linking Waterford and Limerick, and we firmly believe it must be progressed within the lifetime of this Government.

All of these priorities are vital to achieving balanced regional development and creating a region where businesses can grow and people can build their futures. Waterford Airport is another long-standing priority for the Chamber, and it's fantastic to see the progress being made. The airport has enormous potential, not just for tourism, but also in attracting foreign direct investment and improving connectivity for our business community. Fingers crossed we'll see wheels up in 2027.

SUPPORTING BUSINESS

Supporting businesses directly has been equally important. *The Innovators Entrepreneurship Academy*, supported by Waterford Local Enterprise Office and Klearcom, has been a particularly exciting initiative. Our pilot programme brought together 15 entrepreneurs and business owners for mentoring, development and the opportunity to prepare for growth and investment. Seeing the participants develop, build relationships and present their ambitions has reinforced my belief that there is enormous entrepreneurial talent within our region. We are already



looking forward to building on this success with the next programme.

Our *Regional Leaders Programme* also reached an important milestone with the launch of its tenth programme, welcoming 45 participants. Developing the next generation of business leaders is essential to the long-term strength of our economy, and the continued commitment of our mentors and sponsors, particularly Bausch + Lomb and Waterford Chamber Skillnet, is greatly appreciated.

Waterford Chamber Skillnet, under the leadership of Tommie Ryan, also continues to lead the way in terms of skills development, providing exceptional training and support to industry and SMEs.

EVENTS PROGRAMME

Our events programme has once again provided opportunities for businesses to connect, collaborate and learn. The *President's Summer Gala* achieved its largest attendance to date, while our annual *Golf Classic* welcomed 27 teams and 50 tee-sign sponsors. The *Business & Innovation Expo*, *Business After Hours* events, *South East Jobs & Skills Fair*, *International Women's Day Breakfast* and our various sectoral engagements have all played an important role in keeping members connected.

It was disappointing to have had to defer *Engineering the South East Conference & Expo* to March 2027 due to the ongoing industrial action, but we have a fantastic day lined up and look forward to showcasing the strength of our region to the rest of the country.

The *Waterford Business Awards* are always a highlight of our calendar, and I want to congratulate all the finalists and winners who were recognised this year. It's a fantastic opportunity to celebrate the hard work, innovation and success of businesses across Waterford, and a great reminder of the talent and ambition we have right on our doorstep.

We also continued to support businesses facing challenges through our engagement with Waterford Local Enterprise Office under the *SOLVE* initiative following the Tycor fire, while our work with the city and town centre management groups reflects our commitment to creating vibrant places in which businesses can thrive.

THINK WATERFORD FIRST

One campaign particularly close to our hearts is *Think Waterford First*. We continue to encourage employers to make greater use of the Think Waterford First Gift Card, particularly through the Small Benefit Exemption Scheme. Our appeal is straightforward: use this opportunity to reward employees while supporting the local economy. Every euro spent locally helps sustain jobs, supports independent businesses and keeps money circulating within our communities. We need employers and businesses to get behind this initiative and recognise the collective impact we can make. Shopping local must be more than a Christmas slogan; it needs to become a year-round commitment.

Of course, none of this happens without people. I want to acknowledge Ex-Officio Éadaion Carrick, our President Marian Walsh and the Board of Waterford Chamber for their continued commitment, guidance and willingness to give their time to the many issues affecting our region. I also want to recognise the incredible work of our Chamber team. Their energy, professionalism and dedication are central to everything we deliver, often working behind the scenes to ensure that events, campaigns, publications and advocacy initiatives come together successfully. I am fortunate to work alongside such a committed group of people.

LOOKING AHEAD

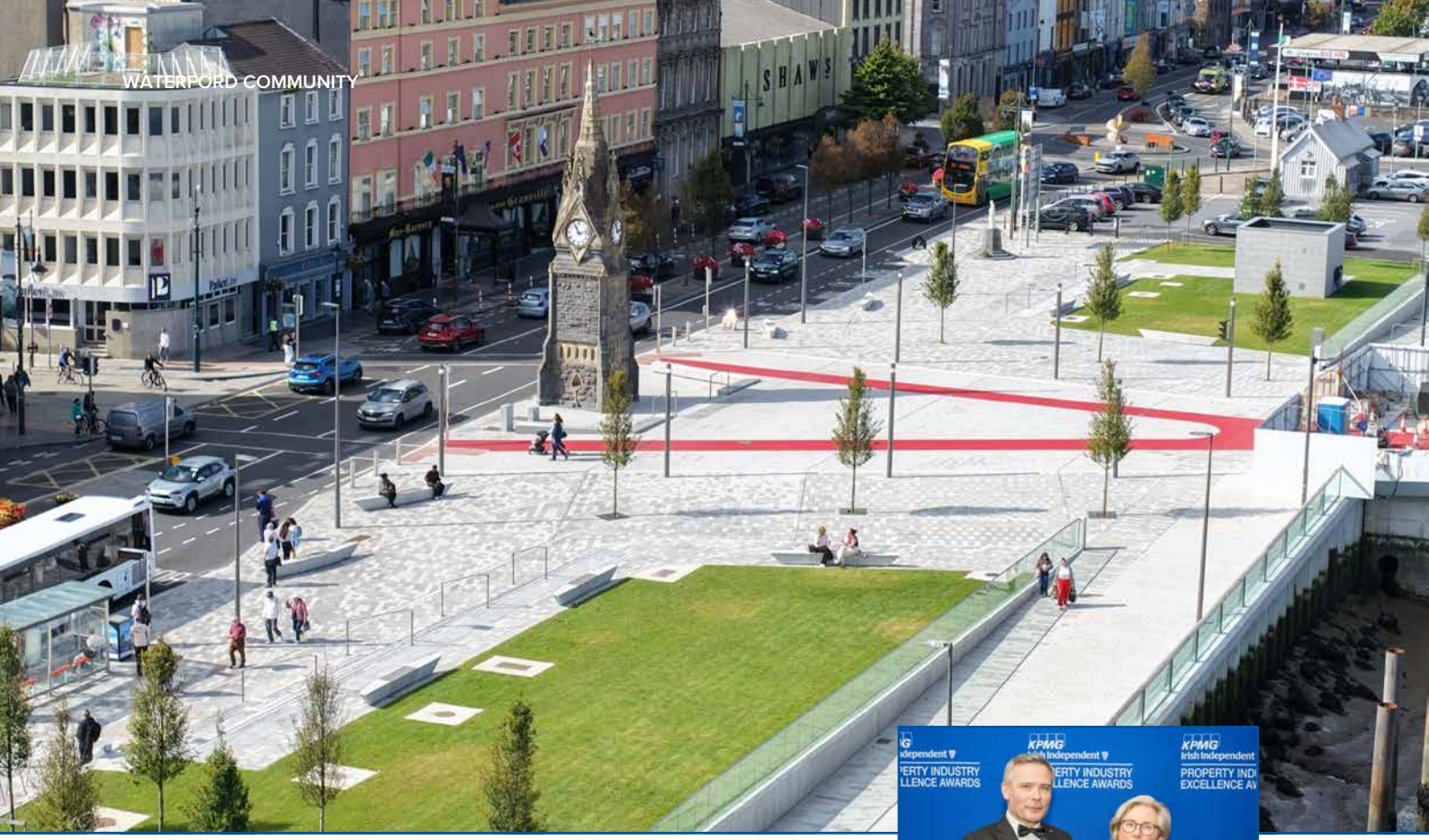
As we look towards 2027, there is plenty to keep us focused. We must continue to turn the ambitions of *South East 2075* into tangible progress, strengthen our engagement with Government, support the next generation of entrepreneurs and ensure that our members have every opportunity to succeed. The rescheduled *Engineering the South East Conference & Expo* in March will also provide an important platform to connect industry, innovation, education and emerging supply chain opportunities.

We have an action-packed calendar of events coming your way, some of the firm favourites and plenty new activities to keep our business community engaged.

I remain firmly convinced that the South East has everything it needs to become one of Ireland's strongest and most productive regional economies. What we need is continued ambition, collaboration and a willingness to challenge the status quo.

2026 has shown what we can achieve when we work together. My sincere thanks to everyone who has supported Waterford Chamber throughout the year. There is still plenty to do, but I believe we're building real momentum, and I look forward to continuing that work in 2027.

Wishing you and yours a very Happy Christmas and prosperous New Year.



National Placemaking and Planning Award for South Quays Plaza



Sean Dobbs, Senior Engineer and Cecily Johnston, North Quays Project Manager with Waterford City & County Council.

Waterford City and County Council picked up the Placemaking and Planning award at the recent *KPMG Irish Independent Property Industry Excellence Awards 2026* for the transformative South Quays Plaza project.

Now in its eleventh year, the *KPMG Irish Independent Property Industry Excellence Awards* are regarded as the 'Oscars' of the Irish property sector and are endorsed by the country's leading professional institutes and representative bodies. The awards recognise the organisations, projects and individuals shaping the future of Ireland's built environment.

The South Quays Plaza is the first part of the highly ambitious North Quays Regeneration project to be delivered and opened to the public, providing a significant new public amenity for residents and visitors alike bringing vibrancy and vitality to Waterford's South Quays.

Situated on what was once described as the "noblest quay in Europe", the new riverside plaza serves as a gateway between Waterford's historic city centre and the rapidly evolving North Quays regeneration area.

The opening of the new plaza reclaims the most central and prominent section of the South Quays, providing a landscaped, accessible and high-quality public space in the heart of the city for locals and visitors to Waterford to enjoy.

The plaza also forms a key gateway of the city's future connectivity plans, linking the Waterford Greenway via the sustainable transport bridge to the South East Greenway from Dungarvan to New Ross. The new 207-metre sustainable transport bridge is due to open in late 2027, further strengthening connections between both sides of the River Suir.

Mayor of Waterford City and County, Cllr. Liam Brazil, congratulated the Council's project team on securing the win, saying: "This award is a tremendous recognition of the vision and hard work that has gone into delivering the South Quays Plaza. While the project has created an exceptional public space in the heart of Waterford, it has also successfully regenerated and revitalised an important part of our city.

"The plaza provides a welcoming and accessible environment for residents and visitors while also strengthening links between the city centre and the transformative North Quays development. It is a prime example of how thoughtful planning and placemaking can enhance connectivity, improve quality of life and help shape a more vibrant and sustainable future for Waterford."

The North Quays is a flagship urban regeneration project delivering one of the largest ever investments in the city and region. This transformative development is supported by public funding from the Towns and Cities Regeneration Investment Fund (formerly URDF), the National Transport Authority (NTA) and the Department of Transport.

■ **For further information about the North Quays Project, visit www.waterfordnorthquays.ie**







North Quays

SHAPING WATERFORD'S FUTURE

Waterford North Quays is creating a vibrant new urban quarter with homes, workplaces, hotel and retail opportunities, enhanced public spaces and direct access to the new Transport Hub.

Connected to the Waterford and South East Greenways, the development is supporting sustainable growth, improved accessibility and Ireland's climate ambitions while transforming Waterford's waterfront for future generations.

Waterford City and County Council wishes you a Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

WATERFORD
North Quays

waterfordnorthquays.ie

Comhairle Cathrach & Contae Phort Láirge
Waterford City & County Council









01: Judit McNally, Cocoa by Judit; Richard Scanlon, Wm Scanlon DairyTech; David Sinnott, Deputy President, Waterford Chamber.
02: Larry Breen, Santegic and Imelda Morrissey, HumanEdge+.
03: Flavia Pordominsky, Screen Waterford and David Sinnott, Deputy President, Waterford Chamber.
04: Lynda Lawton, Waterford Chamber; Ben Curham, Vernexa; David Sinnott, Deputy President, Waterford Chamber.

Enabling innovation that matters through the Innovators Academy

The Innovators Entrepreneurship Academy has officially come to a close following a successful final pitch event at the Granville Hotel, Waterford, where participants presented their business ideas, progress and ambitions to an audience of mentors, Chamber directors and key stakeholders from across the enterprise and business community.

The event marked the culmination of the six month programme, organised by Waterford Chamber and backed by Waterford Local Enterprise Office and Klearcom, and provided participants with the opportunity to showcase the ideas they have developed, the progress they have made and the potential of their ventures. Each participant delivered a final pitch, demonstrating the knowledge, confidence and entrepreneurial skills gained throughout their journey.

The audience included representatives from SETU, Enterprise Ireland, Propelor BIC, Walton Institute, Waterford City and County Council and other key organisations supporting entrepreneurship, innovation and business development across the region.

The event provided an opportunity to recognise the hard work, commitment and ambition demonstrated by participants, while also bringing together the organisations and individuals who play an important role in supporting emerging entrepreneurs and developing the regional business ecosystem.

David Sinnott, Deputy President of Waterford Chamber, congratulated the participants on reaching this important milestone.

"When we launched this pilot programme, our ambition was to create something special for the South East. We wanted to build a programme that would give ambitious innovators the support, guidance, confidence and connections they need to develop their ideas, grow their businesses and make a real impact. Over the past six months, we have seen that ambition come to life. But tonight is not the finish line, it is the starting point for what comes next.

"It is my experience that the innovations that make the greatest impact rarely happen in isolation. They happen when great ideas are supported by the right people, the right expertise, the right connections and, most importantly, the right entrepreneurial ecosystem.

"In a previous role, our philosophy was centred around a simple but powerful idea—*enabling innovation that matters*. I firmly believe that within this first group of innovators there are ideas and businesses that truly embody that philosophy. And who knows, some of the businesses we celebrate here tonight may well become the success stories that inspire future generations of entrepreneurs. That is an exciting prospect."

According to Gerald Hurley, CEO Waterford Chamber, "We are incredibly proud of the innovators who stepped up to the challenge of the Innovators Academy and I would say watch out for these businesses in the future—Vernexa, Aoibhe, HelloWorld.ie, Locus Therapy App, Screen Waterford, Wayne Hutchinson Energy Advisory Group, AeroInfra, Wm Scanlon DairyTech, Ezmar Event Management, FMOps, PRS (Proactive Recruitment Solutions), PepperHustle, HumanEdge+ and Cocoa by Judit. A huge thank you must also go to the mentors who worked with the participants—Niall Harrington, Stuart Fitzgerald, Seamus Kilgannon, Mark Rohan, Liam Dunne, Jordan Casey, Louise Grubb, Patsy Carney, David Brennan, Michael Flynn, Robin Whelan, Derek Lowry, Donal Nolan, Larry Breen, Eunice Power and Derek Lowry; and of course we couldn't have run the academy without the support of Klearcom and Waterford Local Enterprise Office."

While the 2026 Academy draws to a close, applications for the 2027 Academy will open in April 2027 and Waterford Chamber are calling on anyone who has an idea or wants to grow their business to apply. For more information, see www.theinnovators.ie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Theatre Royal move forward with ambitious new Strategic Plan

Theatre Royal Waterford is Ireland's oldest continually operating theatre. For over 240 years, this remarkable venue has honoured its founding optimism by presenting varied and ambitious productions. This much-loved theatre exists because generations of Waterford people have believed that a city is only complete when it has a living, breathing stage at its heart.

A *2026–2028 Strategic Plan* has now launched, with deep respect for this legacy and with a future resting on the immense groundwork laid by past custodians. This future-focused strategy is exciting, and sets out the needs and hopes of the team and Board, alongside local and creative communities.

The 2022–2025 cycle was about steadying the ship; strengthening the theatre's financial model, embedding artist residencies, and piloting early climate action. The Theatre now looks beyond their own walls toward a deeper, more intentional regional impact, transforming into a true engine of regional creativity.

This means as well as hosting touring work, it will be actively incubated through developing pathways for artists, and tackling barriers to attendance. The new strategy elevates digital modernisation and environmental stewardship, while safeguarding the magic of gathering together in person.

Since 2022, Theatre Royal have introduced Artist-in-Residence programmes, strengthened supports and collaborations with artists and organisations, expanded opportunities for a more inclusive and diverse programme of events, and delivered works of excellence by international colleagues. The vibrant programme welcomes new and returning audiences, reaffirming the venue's importance at the heart of Waterford City.

Realising this vision relies on deepening vital partnerships with the Arts Council, Waterford City & County Council, and the local business community. These key partnerships allow the team to be ambitious in artistic delivery, develop artist opportunities, as well as deliver a diverse programme, advance climate action, and improve accessibility for all.

As the theatre steps forward to act on critical issues, partners are invited to grow alongside this strategy, ensuring delivery of high-quality, artistically ambitious cultural experiences to the wider South East.

There are significant ways to support the Strategy; attending events, becoming a 'Friend', amplifying theatre messaging, or simply sharing a passion for the seasonal programme.

Theatre Royal's partners are the heartbeat of this institution. By stepping onto this civic stage with them, you join those who believe Theatre Royal to be their creative and cultural home; a place for live performance, shared experience and connection.

Theatre Royal warmly welcome local partners to get in contact to explore how they can be part of this 241-year legacy.



■ **Find out more at www.theatreroyal.ie**

Become a Corporate Partner
Become part of Theatre Royal's 241-year history.
Contact us to hear more about options to support and benefit.
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Why Waterford matters to global pharma

Ireland's pharmaceutical reputation is well established. What is less often explored is the role that individual locations play in sustaining that success—and why County Waterford has become an increasingly important part of the country's life sciences story.

Waterford is not simply home to a collection of pharmaceutical companies. Over decades, the city and wider South-East region have built a concentration of pharmaceutical expertise, technical capability and industry knowledge that creates a strong foundation for global manufacturing and development.

A DEEPENING PHARMACEUTICAL CLUSTER

Waterford's pharmaceutical ecosystem brings together global manufacturers, specialist suppliers, technology companies and growing CDMO capabilities. Companies including Teva, Sanofi, Eirgen Pharma and others have established operations in the region, creating an environment where pharmaceutical expertise is embedded across the local economy.

IDA Ireland has described Waterford as an important cluster for pharmaceutical manufacturing, with established companies continuing to invest in research, manufacturing and innovation.

That concentration matters. It means pharmaceutical capability is not built in isolation. Experience, technical knowledge and specialist skills accumulate over time, creating a workforce and supply chain that understand the demands of highly regulated pharmaceutical manufacturing.

TALENT THAT BUILDS ON EXPERIENCE

One of Waterford's most important assets is its talent base. South Eastern Technological University (SETU) offers dedicated programmes in pharmaceutical science, molecular biology and biopharmaceutical science, while also supporting research in areas including drug delivery, biotechnology and pharmaceutical analysis. SETU also delivers specialist training in Good Manufacturing Practice for people already working in the pharmaceutical industry.

This creates a valuable connection between education, industry and professional development. For companies such as Eirgen, it provides access not only to emerging scientific talent, but to an established pool of people who can continue to develop specialist expertise throughout their careers.

The ecosystem is continuing to evolve. SETU's planned Pharmacy and One Health facilities at its new Glassworks campus are intended to bring academic and enterprise activity together, further strengthening the region's capacity for collaboration, research and innovation.

AN ECOSYSTEM BUILT FOR COLLABORATION

The value of Waterford is therefore greater than any individual facility. It is the combination of people, infrastructure, education, industry experience and connectivity that makes the location strategically valuable.

For a global pharmaceutical company, that ecosystem can translate into something tangible: access to specialist expertise, an established manufacturing culture and a network of organisations capable of supporting increasingly complex pharmaceutical programmes.

That is particularly relevant as pharmaceutical companies seek manufacturing partners that can combine technical expertise with flexibility, scalability and speed. The question is no longer simply where a product can be manufactured. It is where the capabilities required to develop, scale and supply that product can be brought together most effectively.

WATERFORD'S NEXT CHAPTER

Waterford's pharmaceutical story is also still being written. The region has an established manufacturing heritage, but it is continuing to develop alongside the needs of a changing global industry. New investment, new capabilities and closer links between industry and education are expanding what the region can offer.

Eirgen Pharma is part of that evolution. Founded in Waterford in 2005, Eirgen has grown from its early focus on high-potency pharmaceutical ingredients into a research-driven CDMO supporting the development, manufacture and supply of oral solid dose medicines for global markets.

Its continued investment demonstrates how Waterford's pharmaceutical ecosystem can support the growth of specialist manufacturing capability. Eirgen's new state-of-the-art facility increases its capacity to more than 500 million oral solid dose units annually, supporting both high-potency and non-potent products from development through to commercial supply.

The significance of that investment extends beyond additional manufacturing capacity. It demonstrates that Waterford is not simply a legacy pharmaceutical location. It is a place where new technologies, specialist skills and significant manufacturing capability continue to be developed for global markets.

For Eirgen, Waterford is more than a headquarters or manufacturing location. It is part of the company's capability—providing access to an established pharmaceutical ecosystem, a skilled talent base and a deep pool of industry knowledge.

And for global pharma, that is ultimately what makes Waterford matter: a location where experience and innovation come together to support the next generation of pharmaceutical development and manufacturing.

Ireland's pharmaceutical success story is far from complete. As global demand for complex medicines grows, and innovation accelerates, companies like Eirgen Pharma will continue to play a central role in ensuring Ireland remains at the forefront of global life sciences.

■ **Find out more at www.eirgen.com**



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OPTICIANS

Waterford sets sail for global opportunity with Clipper Race 2028 bid

Waterford is setting its sights on the global stage, with business leaders, civic representatives and key stakeholders working together to bring the prestigious *Clipper Round the World Yacht Race* to the city in July 2028.

An exploratory meeting at the Granville Hotel brought together representatives from Waterford's business and tourism sectors, local government and the Clipper Race organising team to discuss the potential for Waterford to become an Irish host port for the internationally renowned sailing event.

Among those attending were Sir Robin Knox-Johnston CBE, legendary yachtsman and founder and Chairman of the *Clipper Round the World Yacht Race*; William Ward OBE, Co-Founder and CEO of Clipper Ventures; and Enda O'Coineen, Irish businessman and sailor, CEO of the Business Post Group and Chairman of Kilcullen Kapital. Former Waterford MEP Grace O'Sullivan also attended, bringing her extensive maritime experience and connections to the discussions.



Pictured (l-r): Guy Waites; Enda O'Coineen; William Ward OBE; Gerald Hurley, Waterford Chamber CEO; Clare Barrett, House of Waterford; Sir Robin Knox-Johnston; David Sinnott, Deputy President of Waterford Chamber and CEO, Port of Waterford.

Founded by Sir Robin, the Clipper Race is one of the world's most extraordinary sailing challenges, offering people from all walks of life the chance to experience ocean racing, regardless of their previous sailing experience. Around 40% of participants have never sailed before, with all crew members completing four weeks of compulsory training before taking to the seas. The race visits approximately 15 ports worldwide, bringing together participants from dozens of nationalities. Each stopover brings the full international fleet, and in Tongyeong, South Korea, last year that meant nearly 200 crew in port for nine days, plus supporters and race partners.

The visit of one of the brand-new Clipper RX ocean racing yachts, set to compete in the 2027–28 race, generated considerable interest along Waterford's quays. More than 300 people took the opportunity to step aboard, meet the skipper and crew, and get a firsthand glimpse of life on an ocean racing yacht. The visit also highlighted the unique appeal of the Clipper Race, which offers people from all walks of life the chance to experience the adventure of ocean racing, with no previous sailing experience required.

The enthusiasm generated during the visit offered a taste of what hosting the Clipper Race could mean for Waterford. Beyond the excitement of welcoming an international sporting event, the potential economic and tourism benefits are considerable, with opportunities to attract overseas visitors, generate business for the hospitality, retail, tourism and marine sectors, and showcase Waterford and the wider South East to a global audience. The evidence from other host ports is encouraging. An independent YouGov Sports assessment of the Derry~Londonderry stopover in 2022 put total event impact at £11.1 million, including £7.66 million in visitor spend. In Tongyeong, 73% of surveyed crew and supporters said they would not have visited if it weren't for the Race, and 83% had never been to South Korea before. The stopover generated 428 media mentions with a combined reach of 935 million.

Efforts to secure the event have already gathered momentum, with engagement taking place at Leinster House and the British Embassy. Discussions have involved Ministers John Cummins, Charlie McConalogue, Peter Burke, and Barry Ward TD, as stakeholders continue to make the case for Waterford's inclusion in the 2028 race programme.







Pictured at Leinster House (l-r): Gerald Hurley, Waterford Chamber CEO; Minister Charlie McConalogue; Karen Burns; Sir Robin Knox-Johnston; Minister John Cummins; Barry Ward TD; Enda O'Coineen.





Sir Robin Knox-Johnston with Grace O'Sullivan and Karen Burns aboard the Clipper RX ocean racing yacht in Waterford.

STRONG SUPPORT IN WATERFORD

There is strong support in principle among Waterford's business and civic community for hosting the event, with a shared recognition of the opportunities it could deliver for the city and region. However, securing Government backing will be essential, with a funding package of approximately €2.5 million being sought to support the bid.

Gerald Hurley, CEO of Waterford Chamber, said: "Waterford has an incredible opportunity to put itself on the international stage, and the prospect of hosting the Clipper Race in 2028 is something we should be very excited about.

"An event of this scale would attract visitors from around the world, create opportunities for local businesses and allow us to showcase our maritime heritage, our wonderful waterfront and the warmth of our welcome to a global audience.

"The enthusiasm among stakeholders is hugely encouraging, and there is a real appetite to work together to make this happen. We would love to see Ireland's oldest city become part of this prestigious international event."

With its rich maritime heritage, spectacular waterfront and growing reputation as a visitor destination, Waterford has much to offer as the host port. The city has hosted an event on this scale before: the *Tall Ships Races* in 2011 drew an estimated 500,000 visitors, was valued at about €25.6 million to the local economy, and was powered by around 700 volunteers.

The focus now turns to securing the necessary Government support and building on the momentum already generated, with the ambition of welcoming the Clipper fleet to Waterford for nine days in July 2028.

AIB supports businesses to get ahead of upcoming tax deadline

With the tax deadline fast approaching, AIB is supporting businesses to take proactive steps to manage their cashflow effectively and reduce the financial stress associated with this busy period. As annual tax filing obligations loom, the importance of cashflow management becomes increasingly clear for businesses of all sizes. Cashflow management is about more than knowing what's in your bank account—it's a comprehensive approach that includes monitoring receivables, managing outstanding debts, and planning for future payments.

THE YEAR-ROUND IMPORTANCE OF CASHFLOW MANAGEMENT

Effective cashflow management is crucial throughout the year, but it takes on added significance during tax season when financial demands peak. For many business owners, this time of year can be particularly busy as they juggle large financial outflows, such as tax payments and other significant expenses. However, with careful planning, businesses can mitigate some of this and maintain a healthy financial position.

By keeping a close eye on cashflow, businesses can not only stay secure and profitable but also make informed decisions about future investments, spending, and building an emergency fund. This preparation helps businesses remain resilient against any various financial challenges that can arise unexpectedly.

PLANNING AHEAD TO REDUCE FINANCIAL STRESS

As tax deadlines draw near, it's clear that effective cashflow management, financial forecasting, and early tax planning are critical strategies for maintaining financial health. For businesses, taking control of cashflow not only supports immediate needs but also lays the groundwork for long-term stability and success.

Ultimately, careful cashflow management can be a key factor in navigating the challenges of tax season and beyond, ensuring that businesses are prepared for whatever financial demands come their way.

MANAGING LARGE EXPENSES WITH CASHFLOW SOLUTIONS

One-way businesses can manage significant expenses, like annual tax bills or pension contributions, is by spreading these costs over a period of time. This approach can help ease demand on cash reserves, providing businesses with greater financial flexibility to handle both expected and unexpected expenses. For many, managing these payments over several months rather than all at once can make a substantial difference in maintaining cashflow stability.

AIB'S CASHFLOW SOLUTION FOR YOUR BUSINESS: PROMPTPAY FINANCE

Paying significant annual bills requires planning, and AIB's cashflow solution, PromptPay supports your company to conserve cash for expected and unexpected expenses. With PromptPay, your business can spread large one-off expenses, such as your annual tax bill or pension payments across six to 11 months.

"AIB Finance & Leasing remain committed to supporting the growth and expansion of businesses within the SME and Agricultural sectors. As well as offering our standard Hire Purchase and Leasing products, we understand businesses also have short-term working capital finance requirements and recognise how these significant one-off payments can negatively impact on the day-to-day cashflow. Our Working Capital Finance solutions of PromptPay and Insurance Premium Finance are short term finance products which enable businesses to finance significant annual payments easing cashflow pressures and are a key part of our product offering to many business customers." — Head of AIB Finance & Leasing, Brendan Crowley



■ To learn more about how AIB can assist with managing your cashflow and read customer stories on how Promptpay has benefited their businesses visit AIB's PromptPay and Insurance Premium Finance webpage at www.aib.ie/promptpay

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Building careers, capability and growth in Waterford

Waterford's business landscape has changed considerably, with the city and wider South East increasingly home to businesses and professionals whose ambitions extend beyond the region. EY Ireland's growth in Waterford reflects that change.

More than 130 people are now based in EY's Waterford office, double the number employed eight years ago when Ronan Clinton stepped into the role of Waterford Office Lead Partner. Since then, the work carried out from Waterford has broadened too, reflecting the needs of businesses in the region.

Today, EY Waterford has capabilities across Assurance, Tax, Corporate Finance, Consulting, AI and Data and Analytics. As an Audit Partner, Ronan provides Audit and Assurance services to local and international clients in the South East and across Ireland. Tax Partner John Kennelly, supports multinational, private family and entrepreneurial businesses across the South East and beyond, helping them navigate a complex tax landscape.

EY Waterford's clients range from international and foreign direct investment businesses to indigenous companies, particularly in life sciences, medtech and advanced manufacturing, reflecting the businesses driving the South East economy. The team also acts for family-owned businesses across agrifood, engineering, construction, technology and services.

For international companies setting up or expanding in Ireland, the Waterford team helps them navigate the Irish business, regulatory and commercial environment. For indigenous businesses, its supports growth, transformation and expansion into new markets.

EY has more than 5,600 people across the island of Ireland and a network spanning more than 150 countries. This means work based in the South East can involve colleagues, businesses and specialist expertise elsewhere in Ireland and internationally.

Regional economies need skilled graduates, and opportunities for them to build careers locally. EY Waterford, for example, hires graduates from South East Technological University, the University of Limerick and University College Cork, across accounting, finance and business. This gives young people the opportunity to build strong careers in the South East working with Irish and international organisations.

Ronan Clinton, Office Managing Partner and Assurance Partner at EY Waterford, has made developing talent a central focus as the office has grown: "I am incredibly proud of how the EY Waterford team has developed over the past eight years. We have grown in size, and built a great range of skills, experience and perspectives. What is particularly important to me is that people can come through our doors in Waterford and build long-term careers here. We have a strong pipeline of talent coming from universities across the region and beyond and creating opportunities for those people to develop and progress is a big part of what we want to continue doing."

SUPPORTING PRIVATE ENTERPRISE IN THE SOUTH EAST

Waterford is home to ambitious indigenous and privately owned businesses, and supporting them forms an important part of EY Waterford's work.

That commitment to entrepreneurship extends beyond client work. The *EY Entrepreneur Of The Year* programme, now in its 29th year, celebrates and connects entrepreneurs across Ireland, building a community of business leaders. The programme provides a platform for entrepreneurs outside Ireland's larger business centres to bring their businesses and ambitions to a national audience.

This year, Waterford is represented by David Brennan of Waterford-based Eastgate Engineering, a 2026 *EY Entrepreneur Of The Year* finalist in the International category, and demonstrating an internationally focused business being built from the South East.

John Kennelly, Tax Partner at EY Ireland said, "Entrepreneurial spirit is in the South East's DNA. There is a strong base of successful, well-run businesses, from family-owned firms built over generations to companies winning in international markets. This is a region of founders who back themselves and businesses with real strength and staying power. At EY we work alongside many of these businesses day in day out, helping them navigate complexity, scale effectively and seize opportunity."

PREPARING FOR WHAT COMES NEXT

Waterford's next phase of growth will unfold in a complex environment. Advances in AI and other technologies are reshaping how businesses operate and what skills they need. Geopolitical uncertainty, shifting trade relationships and tighter regulation are also affecting decisions on investment, supply chains and growth.

These shifts make the link between business, talent and education more important for Waterford. The region combines international businesses, ambitious indigenous companies and a strong third-level base. Keeping local skills aligned with businesses needs will be key to attracting investment and creating opportunities for growth.

Ronan Clinton concluded: "Whether it's an international company choosing to set up here or a family-owned business ready to go further, they want advisers who know Waterford the landscape and can also bring the best of EY from across Ireland and around the world. That is what we want to be for them and work tirelessly every day to deliver. We'll keep investing in our people and staying close to our clients, because the South East has huge success ahead of it, and we intend to be part of it."

LEARN MORE



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EY Shape the future with confidence



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A Season of Progress

Comhairle Cathrach & Contae Phort Láirge
Waterford City & County Council

UPDATES ON HOUSING STRATEGY

Waterford City and County Council has exceeded its social and affordable housing targets by 12.5%, providing 1,328 social housing units and 248 affordable housing units across the city and county. 94 age-friendly units have been completed since 2022 to Q2 2026, with a further 40 units expected to be completed by the end of this year, bringing the total to 134. Additionally, Waterford City and County Council provided 195 accessible housing units and has paid out over €7.7m to bring back into use 143 formerly vacant properties as homes for families.



WATERFORD COMMUNITIES GATHER TO MARK 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF 9/11

Mayor of Waterford City and County, Cllr. Liam Brazil, along with elected members, local emergency services, community groups and members of the public gathered on September 11th at the Bishops Palace Memorial Garden, adjacent to the city's permanent 9/11 memorial monument, to observe a solemn commemoration marking the 25th anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks. The service commenced with a moment of reflection to honour the thousands of victims who lost their lives in 2001.

THREE WATERFORD REGENERATION PROJECTS RECEIVE €22.65M IN GOVERNMENT INVESTMENT FUNDS

Waterford City and County Council has been successful in its application for the *Towns and Cities Regeneration Investment Fund* (TCRIF), with €22.65 million allocated to three key projects; Waterford Cultural Quarter (WCQ) Creative (25-26 O'Connell St.), 22 Lady Lane, and Dungarvan Innovation and Enterprise Hub. The three successful projects will continue Waterford City and County Council's approach to the regeneration of the city and county by identifying, repurposing and bringing back to use, strategically located derelict, vacant and underutilised building and sites, and developing community and civic infrastructure.



COUNCIL BEGINS JOURNEY TOWARDS AUTISM CHAMPION ACCREDITATION

Members of the Dungarvan and Lismore Municipal District and staff from Waterford City and County Council took part in training delivered by Autism Friendly Dungarvan, as part of the Friendly Town programme led by AsIAm – Ireland's autistic led Autism charity.

The training forms part of Autism Friendly Dungarvan's programme to develop a network of Autism Champions across the town. It also marks the first step in the Council's journey towards becoming an accredited Autism Champion, supporting its commitment to providing more accessible, understanding and inclusive services for autistic people.



CONTRACT SIGNED FOR TRAMORE WATER SPORTS FACILITY

The addition of this state-of-the art Water Sports Facility on Tramore's Prom will further strengthen Tramore's appeal as a key destination within Ireland's Ancient East, for tourists and locals alike to enjoy water-based activities such as kayaking, surfing, paddle boarding and sea swimming. Contracts were signed by Waterford City and County Council and contractor Conor Phelan Construction to commence construction which will be developed under Fáilte Ireland's *Platforms for Growth Scheme*.



WARM WATERFORD WELCOME FOR WATERFORD'S DANISH EU PARTNERS

Waterford welcomed envoys from Denmark as part of Ireland's Presidency of the Council of the European Union (EU). The Chargé d'Affaires a.i of Denmark to Ireland, Mr. Ole Egberg Mikkelsen, and Ireland's Ambassador to Denmark, His Excellency Kyle O'Sullivan, visited the city and county for a series of tourism, cultural, academic and climate events. This pairing gives us an opportunity to share practical experiences, learn from successful projects and explore new links between our public bodies, businesses, educational institutions and cultural organisations.

The delegation toured the North Quays Public Infrastructure Project, one of Ireland's most significant urban regeneration projects, visiting the Sustainable Transport Bridge and the Transport Hub on the north side of the river. They then viewed a recently completed *Active Travel Safe Routes to School* (SRTS) project at Butlerstown National School, which prioritises safer, more accessible routes for children travelling to school.

Waterford Suir Valley Railway was the next stop as the Danish envoys visited WSVR before travelling on the narrow-gauge railway to Mount Congreve Gardens.

OLDER PEOPLE'S COUNCILS FROM ACROSS THE REGION GATHER IN WATERFORD

Taking place during the *European Week of Sport*, the Age Friendly Ireland South East Regional Gathering brought together Older People's Council Executive members from Waterford, Wexford, Kilkenny, Carlow, Kildare and Wicklow for a day of activity and wellbeing and the opportunity to share experiences. This inaugural regional event celebrating active ageing, community connection and the valuable contribution of older people to their communities was officially opened by Deputy Mayor of Waterford City and County, Cllr. Jim Darcy.



CREATING COLLABORATIONS AND CONNECTING WATERFORD THROUGH RURAL TOURISM

In November, over 100 tourism and hospitality businesses gathered in The Park Hotel in Dungarvan to take part in the Waterford Rural Tourism Network Event. The theme of the day, 'Empowering Waterford and Welcoming our Neighbours', saw each cluster promoting their geographical areas. Also present were organisations that the network routinely collaborates with, such as Waterford Local Enterprise Office, Tourist Offices, Waterford Leader Partnership, Taste Waterford and Visit Waterford.

WATERFORD RETAINS PURPLE FLAG STATUS

Waterford has, once again, received the coveted Purple Flag accreditation, which represents the gold standard of the management of evening and nighttime economies. Key successes in Waterford's submission include a decade of Purple Flag accreditation, with a strong commitment to the ethos of the programme evident across its ENTE (evening and nighttime economy) activity and partnership working, alongside recognition as Ireland's most liveable county and cleanest city.

This prestigious award underpins Waterford's great blend of entertainment, dining, and culture, all the while ensuring the safety and well-being of residents, and visitors in the evening and nighttime economy between the hours of 5pm and 5am.



SCHOOLS LITTER CHALLENGE MARKS ITS SIXTH YEAR

Sponsored by Tom Murphy Car Sales Toyota, in association with Waterford City and County Council and Waterford Chamber, secondary school students from across the city and county will be out and about litter-picking in their localities. Deputy Mayor of Waterford City and County, Cllr. Jim Darcy launched the sixth *Waterford Schools Litter Challenge* in October. For the challenge, Waterford City and County Council is providing bags, gloves, litter pickers and high visibility vests to all schools, with Tom Murphy Car Sales Toyota sponsoring the €1,500 prize for the winning school.

DANCING LADY SCULPTURE RETURNS HOME TO THE MALL

A distinctive piece of public art has made a return to the Theatre Royal's urban biodiversity garden. The sculpture, affectionately known as Rosalind, after the heroine and protagonist in Shakespeare's *As You Like It* was returned to her plinth, following essential remedial and restoration works.

Created by artist Elaine McDonagh of Newgrange Willow Designs, the sculpture was originally commissioned by Theatre Royal. Drawing inspiration from Ireland's natural environment, rich cultural heritage and scenic landscapes, McDonagh's work combines willow and recycled metal to produce striking and sustainable works of art.

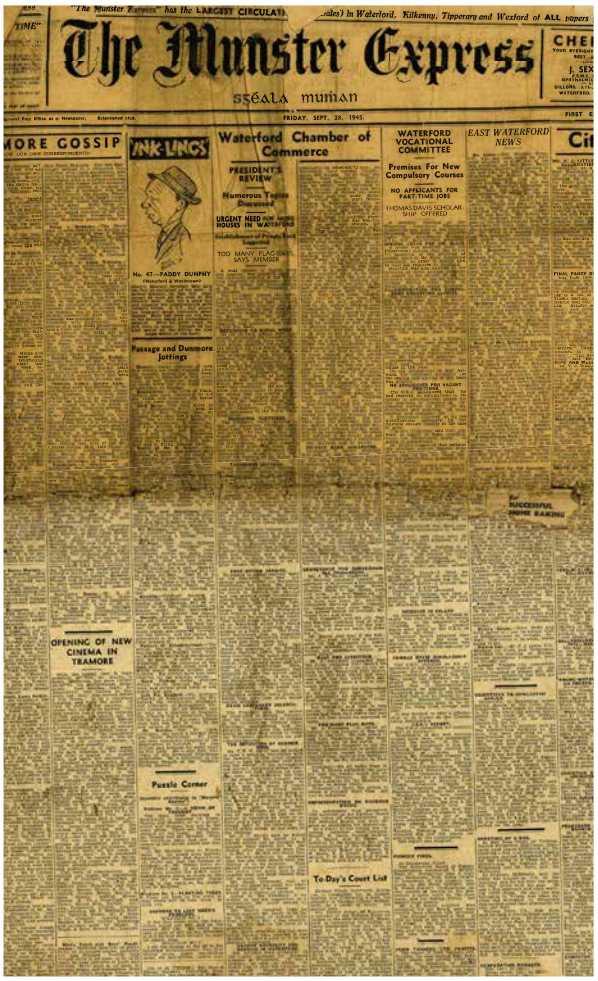
Newspaper treasure from 1945

■ BY LYNDA LAWTON, WATERFORD CHAMBER

An old newspaper discovered while clearing a family home has provided a fascinating snapshot of Waterford life in 1945, revealing that some of the challenges facing the city today were already firmly on the agenda more than 80 years ago.

The copy of *The Munster Express*, dated Friday, September 28, 1945, was discovered by the family of Michael Heffernan while clearing their late father's house. Their father, who passed away in 2019, Michael Heffernan, from Glenmore, County Kilkenny, was an avid collector of old newspapers, and this particular edition has proved to be a wonderful piece of local history.

Published just weeks after the end of the Second World War, the front page features a report on a Waterford Chamber of Commerce meeting, headed 'President's Review – Numerous Topics Discussed'. At the time, the Chamber was led by Charles S. Jacob, who served as President from 1944 to 1945 and was a prominent Waterford businessman and civic leader who worked at the historic local financial institution Harvey and Sons.


The Munster Express

SCÉALA MUMAN

FRIDAY, SEPT. 28, 1945.

Waterford Chamber of Commerce

PRESIDENT'S REVIEW

Numerous Topics Discussed

WATERFORD VOCATIONAL COMMITTEE

Promises For New Compulsory Courses

EAST WATERFORD NEWS

INK-LINGS

MORE GOSSIP

OPENING OF NEW CINEMA IN TRAMORE

Puzzle Corner

To-Day's Court List

HOUSING

One headline in the report in particular stands out: 'Urgent Need for More Houses in Waterford'. The report reveals that the city needed approximately 800 houses, highlighting difficulties in securing building materials and finance. It also discusses preparing building sites, providing roads and making loans available at affordable interest rates to encourage housebuilding.

More than eight decades later, housing remains one of the most pressing issues facing Waterford and the country. The language may have changed, but the need for more homes, affordable finance and a coordinated approach to development is remarkably familiar.

The Chamber also raised concerns around transport, including better railway connections between Waterford and Wexford, improved passenger services and postal facilities.

These are not simply historical curiosities. They are issues that continue to feature in Waterford Chamber's work today and are central to its recently launched *The South East 2075: A Regional Strategy for Prosperity & Connectivity*. The strategy sets out a long-term vision for housing, infrastructure and improved transport links, with the ambition of creating a more connected South East region of 650,000 people.

The parallels between the 1945 report and the 2075 vision are striking. While the scale and solutions have evolved, the fundamental need for homes, investment and connectivity remains. It is a reminder that the decisions made today will shape the region for generations to come.

HURLING HISTORY

There is another remarkable story behind the newspaper's discovery. Michael Heffernan, who died a number of years ago at the wonderful age of 99, holds the distinction of being the only hurler to have played senior hurling for Kilkenny, Wexford and Waterford. In those days, players often represented the county in which they worked and lived rather than where they were from.

On one memorable occasion, Michael lined out at centre forward for Wexford while his brother played centre back for Kilkenny, meaning the brothers found themselves marking each other on the field.

Thanks to Michael's love of collecting newspapers, this fascinating edition has been preserved.

From an 800-house shortage to regional transport connections, a former Chamber President and a unique GAA story, it is a wonderful reminder that local history has plenty to teach us about the future.

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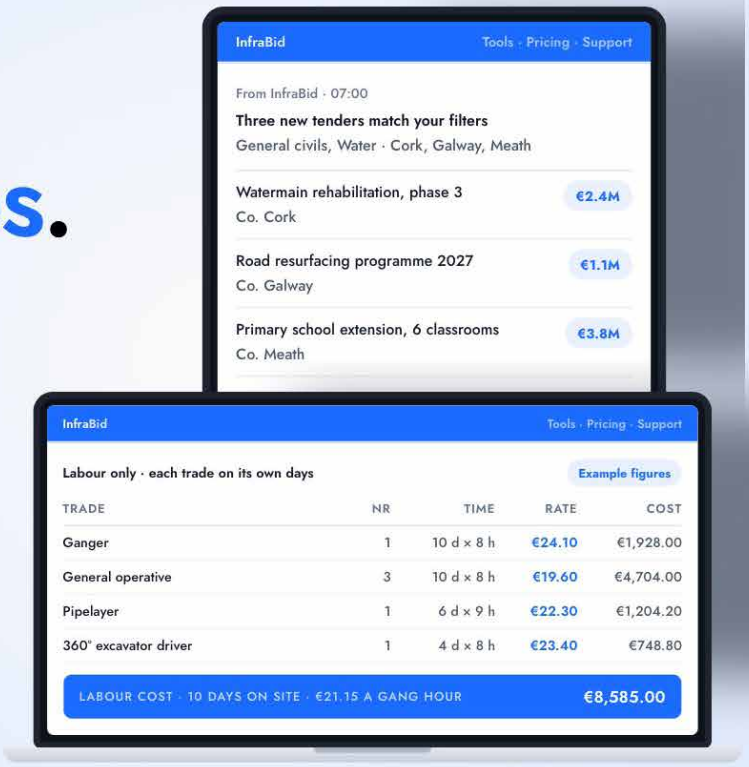

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01: The winner of this year's Best Documentary went to *Prescribed Laughter*. The documentary was directed by Ryan Falconer (pictured) and produced by Rachel Kennedy McGrath.
02: The award for Best Cinematic Image went to *An Unusual Congregation* by Donal Moloney.
03: The award for Best Short Screenplay went to *Bánsolas* by Rachel Walsh-Williams.

Waterford International Film Festival celebrates 20 years of storytelling

Waterford International Film Festival (WIFF) celebrated its 20th anniversary recently with an expanded programme of Irish and international cinema, showcasing emerging and established filmmaking talent across a diverse range of genres.

Marking two decades of bringing independent film to Waterford, this year's festival featured more than 50 live screenings, over 100 films available online, dedicated Irish-language and family-friendly programmes, and a special industry event celebrating the animation sector.

The live programme took place on November 14 and 15 at the Chapel at South East Technological University's College Street Campus and at the House of Waterford, attracting audiences to a varied selection of short films spanning drama, comedy, documentary, animation, music video and experimental filmmaking.

A highlight of the anniversary programme was *Animation Connect 2026*, presented by the National Talent Academy for Animation, which brought an additional industry dimension to the festival and highlighted the strength and creativity of Ireland's animation sector.

The festival culminated in an awards ceremony at the House of Waterford on Sunday, November 15, recognising outstanding achievements across nine categories, alongside three runner-up awards and a number of honourable mentions.

For Creative Director Stephen Byrne, reaching the 20-year milestone represents an important achievement for a festival dedicated to celebrating independent cinema and providing a platform for filmmakers.

"Reaching 20 years is a significant milestone for us. We are proud to continue bringing Irish and international films to Waterford, giving filmmakers an opportunity to showcase their work and audiences the chance to discover stories they might not otherwise encounter. The support of our partners, sponsors, filmmakers and audiences has been instrumental in getting us here."

SETU PARTNERSHIP

The festival has also continued to develop its partnership with South East Technological University (SETU), now in its third year. The collaboration has helped expand the live programme, including dedicated screenings for family audiences and Irish-language cinema.

Among the special screenings was *ÉIST*, directed by Róisín Kearney and starring Stephen Rea, alongside *Sweet Delusion*, directed by David Prendeville and starring Pauline McLynn.

As WIFF looks towards its next chapter, its 20-year milestone is a celebration not only of the filmmakers and films it showcases, but of the role independent cinema plays in enriching Waterford's cultural life and connecting local audiences with stories from around the world.

Find out more about WIFF at www.waterfordfilmfestival.net

WATERFORD INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL Est. 2007

Waterford International Film Festival 2026 – Award Winners

Best Short Film: *A Hand to Hold*

Runner-up – Best Short Film: *Horseback*

Best Short Screenplay: *Bánsolas*

Runner-up – Best Short Screenplay: *Black Forest*

Best Cinematic Image: *An Unusual Congregation*

Runner-up – Best Cinematic Image: *The Killing Joke*

Best International Short Film: *The Drive*

Best Debut/Student Film: *Stutterbug*

Best Documentary: *Prescribed Laughter*

Best Animation: *Grýlu Sker*
Best Music Video: *New Midlife Disco*
Best Trailer: *Banshee*

Honourable Mentions:
- *The Kraken Awakes*
- *One Last Show in Taghmon*
- *Foxing: Kitsuné-tsuk*
- *Our Own Game*
- *Mary is Missing*
- *A Shared Language*
- *I Wanted To Hear Your Voice*
- *ÉIST*

National Learning Network

Think *Possible*

National Learning Network Waterford -Building Brighter Futures

National Learning Network (NLN), the education and training division of Rehab Group, provides personalised education, training, and development opportunities for people with disabilities and those who require additional support, to progress to further education, training, apprenticeships or employment.

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- Computer Application & Office Skills QQI Level 4
- Rehabilitative Training – Options QQI Level 2/3

What We Offer

- A small, supportive, inclusive learning environment.
- Fully funded, recognised QQI qualifications.

Partnering with Local Waterford Businesses

What we Offer

- Tailored matching of students with employers for work placements.
- Ongoing support to both the student and employer throughout the placement.
- Having an NLN student on work experience is an opportunity for your business to support inclusion and make a meaningful impact.

We welcome opportunities to collaborate with employers across Waterford.

Contact: Kitty Galvin Hennessy, Area Manager,
National Learning Network,
Unit 7 IDA Industrial Estate, Cork Road, Waterford X91PK74.
Phone: 051 359220
Email: waterford@nln.ie

Wishing all Chamber members a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year from the team at National Learning Network Waterford.

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COPPER COAST RENEWABLES NAMED ENGINEERING FIRM OF THE YEAR AT NATIONAL AWARDS

Waterford-based renewable energy engineering company Copper Coast Renewables has been named Engineering Firm of the Year at the *2026 Engineering Excellence Awards*, recognising the company's outstanding achievements, technical expertise and continued growth in Ireland's renewable energy sector.

Founded in Waterford in 2023, Copper Coast Renewables (CCR) has quickly established itself as a trusted engineering and project delivery partner in the renewable energy industry. Specialising in commercial and utility-scale solar PV, battery energy storage, grid connections and wider power infrastructure, the company works with businesses and energy developers to deliver complex renewable energy projects across Ireland.

The national recognition comes during a period of significant growth and expansion for CCR, reflecting increasing demand for its engineering expertise and project delivery capabilities. This recognition further strengthens CCR's growing reputation within the engineering and renewable energy sectors. The company holds internationally recognised ISO 9001, ISO 14001 and ISO 45001 certifications, alongside Achilles Silver Plus accreditation and EcoVadis Platinum sustainability recognition, placing it among the top 1% of companies assessed globally by EcoVadis.

With a strong pipeline of projects and continued investment in its people, expertise and operations, Copper Coast Renewables is looking ahead to its next phase of growth, building on its Waterford roots while delivering renewable energy infrastructure across Ireland.



COVE & CO WATERFORD NAMED INTERIOR/DIY STORE OF THE YEAR

Cove & Co Waterford has been named Interior/DIY Store of the Year at the *Elavon Retail Excellence Ireland Awards 2026*. The result was announced on the night at the Lyrath Hotel, Kilkenny. Store Manager Bryan Cogley said: "Cove & Co Waterford is incredibly proud to be named Retail Excellence Ireland Interior/DIY Store of the Year 2026, a prestigious award made possible by the dedication, creativity and passion of our in-store team and the brilliant support of our company colleagues. Most importantly, we want to express our deepest gratitude to our customers, whose trust, loyalty, and passion for beautiful homes inspire us every single day. This award belongs to all of you, and we look forward to continuing to bring your design visions to life in the years ahead."



TOM MURPHY CAR SALES WINS AWARD FOR CX IMPACT IN RETAIL & IN-STORE EXPERIENCE

Tom Murphy Car Sales wins the 2026 award for CX Impact in Retail & In-Store Experience at the Irish CX Impact Awards. Judged by a panel of 20 business leaders from a range of industries, the award recognises our focus on customer experience and the contribution of our team across all departments.

Commenting on the award, Barry Murphy, Dealer Principal at Tom Murphy Car Sales, said: "I want to thank our colleagues across every department for the hard work that has made this recognition possible. Our focus on the customer experience depends on their care and attention, whether someone is choosing a vehicle, arranging a service or sourcing a part. This award is a credit to the whole team."



PASSION FOR CREATIVE CELEBRATE 20 YEARS IN BUSINESS

Waterford-based creative agency Passion for Creative is celebrating its 20th anniversary, having navigated two decades of economic upheaval and extraordinary changes in the creative industry.

Established in 2006 by Manchester-born creative director Jill Hincks and copywriter Dan Jensen, the agency has grown from working with local businesses to supporting organisations throughout Ireland. And while some might see 20 years as a good time to consider a change, the team at Passion for Creative has other ideas. "We're incredibly excited about the future and the opportunities it brings. The truth is, we love what we do. We get to be creative, work with interesting people and feel valued. What could be better than that?"

LEO ANNOUNCES GLAS AWARD WINNER!

The award, in association with Waterford City and County Council recognises and celebrates the micro businesses in County Waterford who have made significant advances in bringing green principles into their business models. None more so than Blue Butterfly Coffee.

The Green Micro Enterprise of the Year was open to all with employees of 10 or less employees. Blue Butterfly Coffee impressed the judges with, "The manner in which its green philosophy permeates throughout all aspects of the business. From sourcing the beans to the production, packaging and delivery."

Founded in 2020 by Fintan Stanley, Blue Butterfly Coffee is more than just a coffee company. "For us great coffee starts long before the roast", explains Fintan. "For us, it begins with the land, things like regenerative practices, agroforestry systems, healthy soil, and the right farmers tending it. Approximately 60% of the coffee we currently source and roast comes from regenerative agriculture or agroforestry systems.

"From farms where coffee grows under native canopies to our Waterford roastery, we believe in restoring the land, nurturing biodiversity, and building fair, lasting partnerships. That's the Blue Butterfly effect, and it's in every cup of coffee."

Fintan and his team received a prize of €4,000, made up of cash and LEO supports, and a themed trophy, designed and created by Irish Handmade Glass.



The Local Enterprise Office Glas Award winner, Fintan Stanley of Blue Butterfly Coffee, accepting the award from Mayor of Waterford City & County, Cllr Liam Brazil, included are Emma Byrne and David Bray. Also pictured is David Walsh of LEO Waterford.



SETU CELEBRATES DR SHEILA DONEGAN'S STEM WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

South East Technological University (SETU) lecturer Dr Sheila Donegan has been named STEM Woman of the Year, recognising more than two decades of work bringing science and mathematics to young people and communities.

Dr Donegan, a chemistry lecturer and co-director of CALMAST, SETU's STEM engagement centre, received the evening's top honour at the *2026 Business Post Women in STEM Awards*. Sponsored by Fidelity Investments Ireland, the award recognises her contribution to widening participation and opening opportunities in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

As co-founder of Maths Week Ireland, Dr Donegan has helped build an all-island initiative that now attracts more than half a million participants annually. Working with schools, universities and partner organisations, the initiative encourages people of all ages to explore mathematics, build their confidence and recognise its relevance to everyday life.

The judges recognised her sustained contribution to opening the door to STEM for generations of young people. Dr Donegan hopes that greater visibility for women working in these fields will encourage more girls and young women to follow their curiosity and consider the opportunities available to them.SETU's representation across the awards also reflected the breadth of talent within the University. Nollaig Healy of CALMAST was shortlisted in the ESG Woman of the Year category, while Dr Deirdre Kilbane of SETU's Walton Institute was shortlisted in both the Science and Technology categories. Dr Frances Hardiman was shortlisted in the Engineering category, with Dr Paula Walshe shortlisted in the Rising Star category.

BLACKWATER VALLEY OPERA FESTIVAL WELCOMES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND TEAM APPOINTMENTS



Blackwater Valley Opera Festival has announced the appointment of Dermot O'Callaghan as Executive Director from January 2027, alongside Annette O'Kelly as Producer and Ann-Marie Ahearne as Education and Community Co-Ordinator, both commencing in October 2026.

Dermot O'Callaghan has been Chief Executive of Sing Ireland, Ireland's national organisation for group singing, since 2013. During this time, he led the organisation's transformation from the Association of Irish Choirs to Sing Ireland in 2019, overseeing significant organisational and financial growth and expanding its programmes, partnerships and reach across Ireland. His work has included artistic programming, fundraising, music education and advocacy, with a strong commitment to widening participation in music. Earlier in his career, Dermot worked with Opera Theatre Company, where he was responsible for the Young Associate Artists' Programme, and with Chamber Choir Ireland.

Annette O'Kelly took up the role of Producer in October 2026, succeeding Conleth Stanley. A seasoned producer, Annette began her career in film before moving into television, advertising and festivals. In 2017, she joined Borris Festival of Writing and Ideas, where she produced the highly regarded festival for many years. She has also enjoyed working on the much-celebrated Electric Picnic and Bloomsday Festival and has a lifelong interest in classical music.

Ann-Marie Ahearne joins as Education and Community Co-Ordinator in October 2026. Her career spans theatre, dance, architecture and visual culture, including producer of Towers and Tales festival at Lismore Castle. The new appointees join the festival's core team: Dieter Kaegi, Artistic Director and festival Co-Founder; Breda O'Brien, Financial Controller; Tara McKeown, Marketing and Sponsorship; Shermin Thompson, Box Office and Hospitality.

Irish Duck Breast with Beetroot Pearl Barley Risotto, Swiss Chard, Black Garlic and Red Wine Jus



■ BY JENNY FLYNN, HEAD CHEF, FAITHLEGG

A great alternative to traditional Christmas turkey is Irish duck breast. For this recipe, I've paired it with something a little different from the usual Christmas fare. The best part is that you can prepare the risotto and sauce in advance, meaning less time in the kitchen on Christmas Day and more time enjoying the festivities with family. Serves four people.

Duck Breast

INGREDIENTS

- 4 duck breasts (approximately 180–200g each)
- Sea salt
- Freshly ground black pepper
- Fresh thyme
- 2 cloves of garlic
- 25g butter

METHOD

1. Carefully score the skin of each duck breast, taking care not to cut into the meat.
2. Season generously with sea salt and freshly ground black pepper.
3. Place the duck breasts skin-side down in a cold frying pan.
4. Gradually render the fat over a medium heat until the skin is golden and crispy.
5. Turn the duck breasts over, add the butter, garlic and thyme, and baste with the melted butter.
6. Transfer to an oven preheated to 180°C and cook until done to your liking. Allow approximately 10 minutes for pink duck, depending on the thickness of the breasts.
7. Rest for 8–10 minutes before slicing.

Beetroot Pearl Barley Risotto

INGREDIENTS

- 250g pearl barley
- 1 shallot, finely diced
- 1 clove of garlic, finely chopped
- 100ml red wine
- 750ml chicken or vegetable stock
- 2 medium cooked beetroots, diced
- 100g beetroot purée
- 40g Parmesan, grated
- 40g butter
- 1 tbsp rapeseed oil
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper

METHOD

1. Gently cook the shallot and garlic in the rapeseed oil without allowing them to colour.
2. Add the pearl barley and toast lightly.
3. Pour in the red wine and allow it to reduce.
4. Gradually add the warm stock, stirring regularly, until the barley is tender but still retains a little bite. This should take approximately 30–40 minutes.
5. Fold through the beetroot purée and diced beetroot.
6. Finish with the Parmesan and butter, stirring until creamy.
7. Taste and adjust the seasoning as required.

Swiss Chard

INGREDIENTS

- 1 bunch of Swiss chard
- 20g butter
- 1 clove of garlic, finely chopped
- Salt
- Squeeze of fresh lemon juice

METHOD

1. Separate the chard leaves from the stalks.
2. Briefly blanch the stalks in boiling water, then refresh in cold water.
3. Sauté the leaves in butter with the garlic until wilted.
4. Add the blanched stalks and season with salt and a squeeze of fresh lemon juice.

Black Garlic Puree

INGREDIENTS

- 4 cloves of black garlic
- 20ml warm water
- A little olive oil

METHOD

1. Place the black garlic, warm water and a little olive oil in a blender.
2. Blend until smooth, adding a little more water if necessary to achieve a soft, spoonable purée.

Red Wine Jus

INGREDIENTS

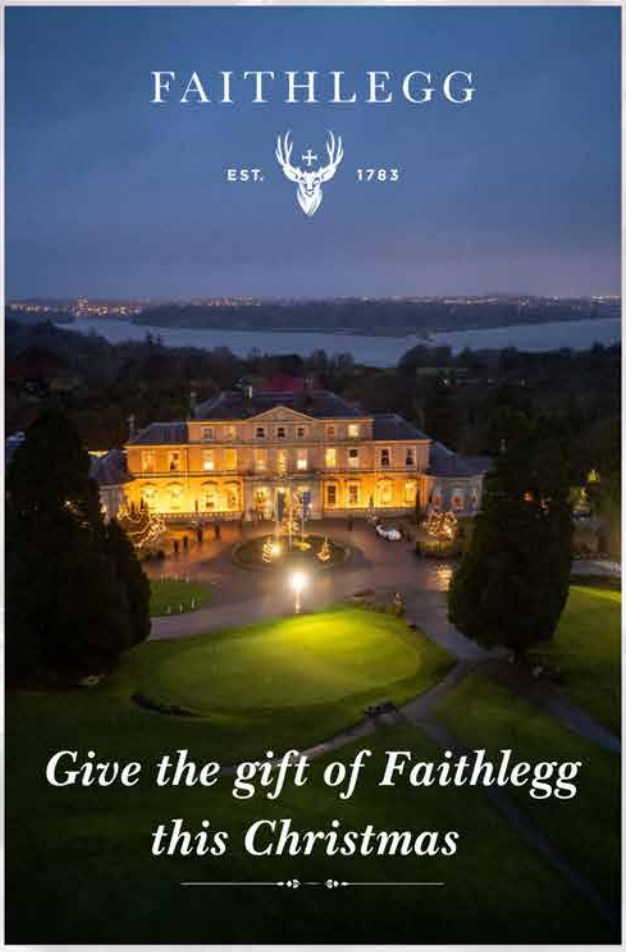
- 1 shallot, finely chopped
- 1 clove of garlic, finely chopped
- 250ml red wine
- 500ml good-quality duck or chicken stock
- 1 sprig of fresh thyme
- 1 tsp redcurrant jelly
- 20g cold butter

METHOD

1. Gently sweat the shallot and garlic until softened.
2. Add the red wine and reduce by approximately two-thirds.
3. Pour in the duck or chicken stock and add the thyme.
4. Simmer until the sauce has reduced to a rich, glossy jus.
5. Stir in the redcurrant jelly, then pass the sauce through a fine sieve.
6. Just before serving, whisk in the cold butter to give the jus a beautiful shine.

To Assemble the Plate

1. Place a neat spoonful of beetroot pearl barley risotto in the centre of each plate.
2. Arrange the wilted Swiss chard just behind the barley.
3. Slice the duck breast at an angle and fan the slices across the plate.
4. Add a few small spoonfuls or dots of black garlic purée.
5. Spoon the rich red wine jus around the duck.
6. Finish with a little fresh thyme...because, after all, it is Christmas!



CHRISTMAS PUDDING



BY **EUNICE POWER**

INGREDIENTS

- 300g raisins
- 300g sultanas
- 200g currants
- 100g mixed peel
- 100g glace cherries
- 50g ground almonds
- 150g chopped almonds
- 50g chopped walnuts
- 400g fresh breadcrumbs
- 100g self-raising flour, sieved
- 200g brown sugar
- 1 tsp each of ground cinnamon, mixed spice
- Half a nutmeg, grated
- 200g melted butter
- 5 eggs
- 500ml bottle of stout
- 4 tbsp brandy
- 1 cooking apple, peeled and grated
- Juice and rind of and orange and a lemon
- You will need 3 x 1.2 litre (two pint) plastic pudding basins and lids, buttered greaseproof paper, large enough to cover the top of each pudding, with a single pleat down the centre.

Traditionally, Christmas puddings are made on the Sunday before Advent which is known as 'Stir-up Sunday'. Making your pudding or cake early means it really does benefit from time to mature. The flavour of the spices mellows and deepens, and the fruits plump up and soften. This recipe was given to me by my Auntie Joan. She has been making pudding for 40 years. The recipe has been handed down by her mother before her, and her mother before that. This recipe makes three 1.2 litre puddings, and for me this is the perfect size, anything larger takes so much longer to cook. We usually use two over Christmas and keep one for later in the year.

Soak the sultanas, raisins, currants and cherries in the brandy and stout overnight; give them a good stir now and then. The next day or so, mix all the ingredients together until well combined. Divide the mixture between the three bowls and pack it in. Cover with the greaseproof paper, folded, with a pleat in the centre, as the puddings will expand slightly as they cook, then pop the lids on.

Christmas puddings are quite dense because of all the fruit and nuts they contain. Place the puddings in deep roasting tins. Pour boiling water into the tin—the water should come almost half way up the pudding bowl—and cook for 3½ hours in the oven at 100°C/Gas Mark ¼, or in a steamer on top of the cooker. Top up with boiling water as required.

When the cooking time is up, allow to cool and store in a cool dry place. When you want to eat the puddings, steam them for a further one and a half to two hours. Turn them out and flame with brandy. Each pudding should serve at least six.



Waterford's Blue Plaque Trail

■ RESEARCHED BY MARCUS COPLEY, WATERFORD CIVIC TRUST



Waterford Civic Trust unveiled a Heritage Blue Plaque in honour of the Waterford Cockle Women on the corner of Arundel Lane on Friday, 8th March 2019. A speech was given by Breda Murphy whose grandmother Ellie Murphy and aunt Molly Murphy were both Cockle Women. Also present were Maura Power (née Robinson), granddaughter of Ellen 'Nana' Robinson; Nana's great granddaughter Grainne Flanagan and great great granddaughter Saoirse Flanagan. Nana's grandson, Tony Robinson and his granddaughter Aoibh Flynn were present including John, grandson of Mary 'Masher' Cleere. Her grandsons James and John stood proudly by as well as Masher's sister, Maggie's grandson John, and great grandson Sean. The Glavey family also attended with the great great grandchildren of Cockle Women. What a turnout, with over forty family members present.

The plaque site was specifically chosen as Masher had sold cockles there for over forty years up to the 1970s. Claire Quinn reported for the *Waterford News & Star* on the day—John Cleere spoke of how Masher and many others worked in strenuous and difficult conditions to support their families. He remembers: "They used to go out in the mud out at Woodstown... also to Passage East. They had to carry the bags of cockles through the mud to where they were going to boil them. The cockles were then transported to the city by donkey and cart. Some of these women walked to Passage or Woodstown and back to Waterford City. Nana supported nine children of her own and one of her sisters' children this way. The women sold their wares at various locations including White's corner, the Savoy cinema, where Nana sold her cockles, the Apple Market, and Dunnes Stores (originally on Cathedral Street).

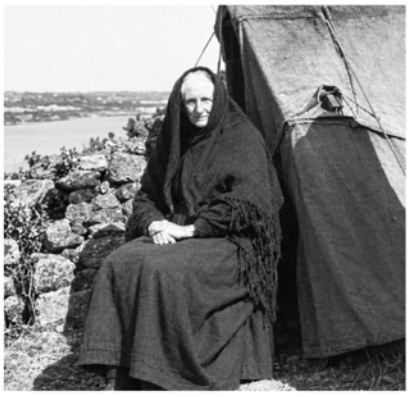
Breda Murphy gave us more information on her grandmother Ellie. Ellie had been a cockle picker as a single woman. Later, as a married woman, her husband died young leaving her with four young children to raise. She listed her occupation in the 1911 census as 'cockle picker'.

As if their lives could not be hard enough, these women were summoned to attend Waterford District Court in late summer 1926 to defend themselves over alleged accusations of 'obstruction' amongst other things. At least two regional papers covered their story: *Waterford News & Star*, and *The Munster Express*. "Cockle Women Prosecuted" was the *Munster Express* headline on Friday, 20th August 1926. It read: "Liam Walsh, Corporation Inspector, gave evidence that he was on duty on 21st July at Peter Street and Michael Street. He saw the defendant, Kathleen Dwyer there. She had a basket of cockles in the channel on the street, exposed for sale. He asked here to bring them down to the fish market, and she said she would go as soon as the others would. She did not stir. She was causing an impediment to the free passing of the street, and she was sitting down on the pathway with the basket in front of her." The Inspector told the court that he had lived for many years in Waterford, and in all that time no prosecution had been made against the cockle sellers. No complaints of obstructions had ever been made, from passersby or from shop owners on the street. There was a to-ing and fro-ing of...*if you want cockles, go to the cockle seller; if you want, fish go to the fish market*. One reason alleged that the cockle women were creating an obstruction on the street but only because interested buyers created a crowd. Kathleen Dwyer was questioned in detail by the prosecution, Mr. O'Shaughnessy. Maggie Furlong and Bella Robinson were also charged that day. The defence did his best: he said cockles as well as meat and vegetables are sold on these streets. The District Justice said he would need time to make a decision.

The case went on through September and November, with a three-month adjournment to see if the women would "behave themselves." By 11th February 1927, court arguments went back and forth reaching a catch-22 between the Judge, prosecution and defence over court costs, fines and hearing the whole case again. The case was adjourned again and fines were imposed. These court appearances ran until at least April 1927, and further exploration is needed to see if the case surfaced again. The court cases were added stress, but these strong women saw it through.



Mary Cleere (known as 'Masher')



Nana (Ellen Robinson)

Thanks to: Breda Murphy; Claire Quinn, *Waterford News & Star*; *The Munster Express*; and Waterford Libraries.

■ **Waterford Civic Trust is a voluntary organisation whose pursuit is the enrichment, preservation, protection, promotion and improvement of our heritage in Waterford. Find out more at www.waterfordcivictrust.ie**

A city full of Christmas



Waterford is getting ready to sparkle this Christmas as Winterval returns with six weeks of festive celebrations, transforming the city into a Christmas destination filled with twinkling lights, bustling markets, family adventures, live music and seasonal entertainment.

Now in its 14th year, Ireland's largest Christmas festival runs until December 23rd, bringing together an extensive programme of free and ticketed events across Waterford's historic streets, squares and venues. From magical family attractions to major concerts, Christmas shopping, festive food and spectacular illuminations, Winterval offers a complete Christmas experience, with plenty of reasons to visit and make a festive break of it.

Sponsored by Bausch + Lomb, the festival's flagship light show, *Winterval Illuminates*, returns with a brand-new animation, transforming the façade of the Silver Museum through spectacular projection mapping, music, sound and special effects. A firm favourite with audiences, the free show will take place each evening throughout Winterval.

THE HIGHLIGHTS

The *Winterval Christmas Market* will be at the heart of the festivities, spreading throughout John Roberts Square, Arundel Square, Georges Street and O'Connell Street. Visitors can browse Christmas crafts, discover unique gifts and enjoy a tempting selection of seasonal food and drink from local, regional and national producers, making it an ideal place to pick up something special while enjoying the sights and sounds of the city.

There will be plenty to keep younger visitors entertained too. In the Apple Market, *Santa's Giant Disco Postbox* returns with a funky new twist. Children can post their letters to the North Pole before the postbox transforms into a mini Christmas disco every half hour from 5pm. Complete with sparkling lights, smoke effects, moving spotlights and festive tunes, the ten-minute dancing sessions promise plenty of fun.

Little explorers can also set off on the free *Viking Elf Fairy Door Trail*, discovering twelve tiny doors hidden throughout the city. Created by the mischievous Viking Elves, the doors are tucked away amongst trees, Christmas decorations and unexpected corners, offering families a fun way to explore Waterford and see how many they can find.

For a little Christmas nostalgia, The Reg will host free screenings of the much-loved festive classic *Home Alone* throughout Winterval. Screenings take place on Fridays and Saturdays at 1pm and 3pm, and Sundays at 1pm, 3pm and 5pm, with popcorn, hot chocolate for younger moviegoers and a warming glass of Glühwein for the grown-ups.

LIVE MUSIC

Music will be a major part of Winterval 2026, with a programme spanning Irish rock legends, emerging bands, contemporary performances, classical concerts and traditional Christmas harmonies.

The Hive, Winterval's new 1,000-capacity venue on Park Road beside the People's Park, will welcome some major names this December. *The High Kings* take to the stage on December 18th, followed by the legendary *Boomtown Rats* on December 19th, while Oasis tribute act *Mad Ferritt* brings a dose of Britpop nostalgia on December 20th. Tickets are priced at €38.50, €45 and €30 respectively, plus booking fees.

The Hive will also host *Blindboy* on December 11th, bringing his distinctive blend of storytelling, humour and cultural commentary to Waterford. An award-winning author and documentary-maker, and creator of *The Blindboy Podcast*, which has amassed more than 90 million listens worldwide, he promises an entertaining and thought-provoking evening. Doors open at 7pm for an 8pm show, with tickets priced at €35 plus booking fee.

Families can look forward to *K-POP Superslayers Live! A Very K-POP Christmas* on Saturday, December 12th. Inspired by the global phenomenon of K-Pop Demon Hunters, the high-energy production combines K-pop anthems, Christmas classics and princess favourites, featuring music from BTS, BLACKPINK, Jungkook, HUNTR/X, KATSEYE and SAJABOYS. With live vocals, elite dancers, explosive choreography and dazzling costume changes, the show begins at 2pm, with doors opening at 1.30pm. Tickets are €25 plus booking fee.

The Reg Venue will also be part of the live music programme, with *Out On Bale* performing on Friday, November 13th, from 9pm to 11pm. One of Ireland's exciting emerging folk bands, the group brings youthful energy and a contemporary edge to the Irish music scene, blending traditional favourites with modern folk and lively crowd-pleasers. Following a standout appearance at Electric Picnic's Trailer Park stage, the band has built a reputation for energetic performances and infectious live shows. Tickets and further information are available at thereg.ie.

For those who enjoy classical music and Christmas harmonies, the festival's choral programme offers a series of seasonal highlights. Bach's *Christmas Oratorio* takes place at St John's Church on Parnell Street on December 6th, featuring Waterford's Notable Works Choir, Wexford Festival Singers, soloists and the Waterford Concert Orchestra. Tickets are €27 for adults and €25 for students, OAPs, unwaged visitors and children under 12, including booking fees.



The *Winterval Massed Choirs Concert* will bring *Ad Hoc Chorale* and local choirs together at the Cathedral of the Most Holy Trinity on November 28th, with tickets priced at €15. The Cathedral will also host a free *Christmas Carol Concert* on December 12th, while the *Winterval Olde Worlde Choir* will perform along the Winterval Trail from December 5th to 20th, filling the city with traditional Christmas favourites. The *Lumina Christmas Concert* at the Franciscan Friary on December 23rd will bring the festival's music programme to a close, with tickets priced at €10 for general admission and €6 for students and OAPs.

There will be plenty of free live music to enjoy along the way, with *Sounds of the Season*, sponsored by WAMA (Waterford Academy of Music & Arts), bringing local choirs, brass bands, pipe bands, stage schools and musicians to the Apple Market on Saturdays and Sundays from 1pm to 4pm. Running from November 13th to December 20th, the programme celebrates the wealth of musical talent across Waterford. *Buskaid* will add an international dimension with a free performance in John Roberts Square on December 20th.



FESTIVE SHOPPING

Beyond the individual events, Winterval is an opportunity to enjoy Waterford at one of the most beautiful times of the year. Visitors can wander through the Christmas markets, browse the city's shops, stop for a seasonal treat in one of its cafés, restaurants or bars, and discover the historic streets and attractions dressed for the festive season. With entertainment and activities spread throughout the city, visitors can build their own Winterval experience, whether that means a family day out, an evening concert or a weekend away.

With its combination of festive markets, spectacular lights, family attractions, live entertainment, music and seasonal experiences, Winterval brings the magic of Christmas to every corner of Waterford. It is a chance to enjoy the simple pleasures of the season, discover something new and make memories with family and friends.

■ **Winterval runs throughout Waterford City on weekends and selected dates until December 23rd. For the full programme, event details and ticket information, see www.winterval.ie**

The Enchanted Garden

Ireland's Magical Winter Wonderland returns to the Japanese Gardens.

Now in its eleventh year, the *Enchanted Garden Winter Lights* at the Lafcadio Hearn Japanese Gardens in Tramore is one of the most magical and largest winter light events of its kind in Ireland. Tens of thousands of lights cover Tramore's stunning Japanese Gardens transforming it into a magical winter wonderland.

From 4th December until 31st December 2026 (4:30pm–7:30pm), the Enchanted Garden will come to life four nights a week (Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday), with extended weekday openings during Christmas week. Step into an extraordinary atmosphere of old-world charm as these stunning gardens are transformed by a sea of twinkling lights, dramatic foliage illumination, and beautiful animal sculptures. An event that is perfect for all generations, from young children to couples and extended families. Visitors will follow a dedicated one-way system around the gardens and will be met at every turn by magnificent displays that fuel the imagination. Along your walk, encounter live winter characters, warm up by the open fire with a hot chocolate or traditional Glühwein, and spot the magical fairy doors glowing in the dark. With classic festive music filling the air, our new Kokoro Café will be open for takeaway hot drinks and local bakes, this is a truly magical experience not to be missed.





- **ONLINE BOOKING:** www.lafcadiohearngardens.com
- **TICKET PRICE:** Adults €10 (+ booking fee), Children 3-15 years €5 (+ booking fee), Children 2years and under FREE.

Always check the website and Facebook page for updates, before travelling long distances as this is an outdoor event and may be subject to cancellation in times of severe weather or health and safety issues.

Santa's Grotto

FREE OF CHARGE

TRAMORE CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL



Visit Santa's grotto at Tramore Coastguard Cultural Centre

Donations to Tramore RNLI Lifeboat Station welcome.

Santa's elves will do arts & crafts with children and Santa will give a selection box to all good boys and girls.

'Sensory Hour' from 1pm–2pm on 20th December for children with autism and sensory needs.

SUNDAYS 13th & 20th DECEMBER
2:00PM — 4:00PM

Waterford Chamber
Advancing business together

Comhairle Cathrach & Contae Phort Láirge
Waterford City & County Council

RNLI Lifeboats

gallery

Women in Engineering Breakfast
@ SETU Arena







Business Breakfast with AIB: Creating Business Value through Sustainability
@ Viking Hotel Waterford





Regional Leaders Programme 2026 Launch
@ Viking Hotel Waterford











German Ambassador visit to Waterford @ Evoke German Kitchens



Visit to the Sustainable Bridge with International Ambassadors and Conor McGuinness TD



Budget Breakfast with PwC @ Tower Hotel





Showcasing Waterford Airport to international Ambassadors and Conor McGuinness TD

Waterford Business Awards @ Tower Hotel

















Membership Directory

Waterford Chamber
Advancing business together

ACCOUNTANT

Aidan McAvinue & Co
CFO Solutions
Comerford Foley Consultants Ltd
ConnorsMeskill
DMB Chartered Accountants
Drohan & Knox
EY
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Fitzgerald Power
Hall Lifford Hall
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Jephson & Co
MK Brazil
O'Sullivan Scanlon Brazil
PwC
Ray Wall & Co. Chartered Accountants
RDA Accountants
Veritas Chartered Accountants
& Registered Auditor

ARCHITECT

C.J. Falconer & Associates
DHB Architects
Fewer Harrington & Partners
Merrigan Doyle Phelan and Partners
PHDesign Architecture

ARTS & LEISURE

The Art Hand
Artform School of Art
Blackwater Valley Opera Festival
Christ Church Cathedral
Coastguard Cultural Centre
Garter Lane Arts Centre
GOMA Waterford
Imagine Arts Festival
Kilcohan Park Greyhound Stadium
Lafcadio Hearn Japanese Gardens
Mount Congreve Gardens
Newtown Golf Practice Range
Padel 100
Peter Flanagan Hurleys & Sports
Screen Waterford
SETU Arena
Splashworld
Symphony Club of Waterford
The Rock Dublin
Theatre Royal
Tramore Amusement & Leisure Park
Tramore Golf Club
Waterford Golf Club
Waterford Healing Arts Trust
Waterford Suir Valley Railway

AUDIO & VISUAL

Centre of the Line Productions
DigiCol
EveryEvent
Frontline Audio Visual
Hi-Lite Television Productions

BANKING & FINANCIAL

Adelphi Financial Brokers
AIB Bank
Anita Cambie Financial
Bank of Ireland
BCF Lending
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EBS Waterford
ezfees financial
FDC Group
Finance For Business
Fitzmaurice Finance Ltd
Journi Credit Union
Kiely Gaule Financial Services
Lisduggan Credit Union
Parolla
PTSB

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Business in the Community
Enterprise Ireland
GreenTech HQ
IDA Ireland
Ireland South East
Irish Exporters Association
New Frontiers
Propelor
SETU Xcelerate Centre
Waterford City Enterprise Centre

CLEANING SERVICES

Aisco Security
CCS Facilities
Kathy Barry's Cleaning
MHL Facilities
S. Security Group Ltd & RAC Facilities
Suir Clean
Tramore Dry Cleaners

COMMUNITY

Autism Friendly Waterford
Ballybeg Greens
Buíon Phort Láirge
Business in the Community
Down Syndrome Ireland Waterford
& South Kilkenny Branch
GIY Ireland
Renew Enterprises
Respond
Rotary Club Waterford
Samaritans Waterford & South East
Society of Saint Vincent de Paul
Solas Cancer Support Centre
Tintean Housing Association
Waterford Disability Network
Waterford Food Bank
Waterford In Your Pocket
Waterford Integration Services
Waterford Public Participation Network

CONSTRUCTION

Bolster Construction
Concrete Pumps
Encon
Hi-Tec Construction
Hus Living
MacMinn O'Reilly Mahon
Sealant Store

CONSULTANCY

AeroInfra
Almega Business Consulting
Benedek Frank
Brigid Milner
CaffCo Business Planning
Carron + Walsh
The Compliance Specialist
Darlington Consulting
Eicea Energy
Finance For Business
Halley Consulting
JHG Consulting Services
ncco
Nolan Construction Consultants
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Ria White HR & Training
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EDUCATION

Irish Management Institute
Junior Achievement Ireland
Medical English Courses
South East Technological University
Waterford & Wexford ETB
Waterford College of Further Education
Waterford Youthreach

EMBASSIES

Embassy of Canada
Embassy of Denmark
Embassy of France
Embassy of Germany
Embassy of China

ENGINEERING

Codico Distributors
Eastgate Engineering
Ellickson Doors
Ellickson Engineering
Engineering the South East
Institute of Industrial Engineers
& Safety Management Systems
M.W. Murphy & Son
Metalman Engineering
STS Group
Total Precision Engineering Solutions
Weltec Engineering

ENGINEERING CONSULTANTS

Douglas Carroll Consulting Engineers
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Garland
LCE Workplace Safety
Malone O'Regan Consulting Engineers

ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY

Byrne & McGuire Oil
Climate Innovation
Copper Coast Renewables
Eicea Energy
ESB
ESB Networks
FLI Group
Gas Networks Ireland
Granny Recycling
GreenTech HQ
Greenvolt Next
NEG8 Carbon
Ørsted
ReduceCosts
SolarSure
South East Energy Agency
Visor Construction Solutions

FOOD & DRINK

Blackwater Distillery
Blue Butterfly Coffee Company
Brady's Quality Foods
Coffee House Lane
Curraghmore Whiskey
Dawn Meats Group
Flahavan's
Grantstown Nurseries
The Iverk Show
Legacy Irish Craft Cider
Molloys Butchers Ardkeen
O'Connell Whiskey Merchants
Shirley's Delicatessen
Supporting Nature Naturally Co.
Walsh's Bakehouse
Waterford Distilling Group

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

James Falconer Undertakers
Robert Thompson Funeral Directors

GRAPHIC DESIGN

Charisma Design
The Forest
OfficeMaster
Passion For Creative
Tagline Print & Design
TOTEM

HEALTH & BEAUTY

Autastic
Colm Morrissey Hair Salon
Connecting to Nature
Elevate Float
Eyeworks Opticians
Nolke Opticians & Hearing Care
Spirit Leisure Centre
Supporting Nature Naturally Co.
The Crucible Gym
Waterford Skin & Laser Clinic

HEALTHCARE

Celltrion Healthcare Ireland
Chronic Health Advocate CLG
Clannad Care
Dermot Crowley & Associates
Dovida
Dr Joseph O'Beirne
Elena Brante Jungian Analyst
Family Practice Medical Centre
Hidden Hearing
The Keogh Practice
Monica Jackman
RelateCare
Right At Home
TriviumVet
University Hospital Waterford
UPMC Whitfield
Waterford Hospice
Waterford Massage Therapist

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Arlington Lodge Suites
Dooley's Hotel
Faithlegg Hotel & Golf Club
Fitzwilton Hotel
Granville Hotel
Greenway Manor Hotel
Majestic Hotel
One the Waterfront
The Strand Inn
Tower Hotel & Leisure Centre
Travelodge Waterford
Viking Hotel Waterford
Waterford Castle Hotel & Golf Resort
Waterford Marina Hotel

HOUSEHOLD & INTERIOR DESIGN

The Assembly Crew
Cove & Co Paint Studio
Dlight
Evoke German Kitchens
Hogan Painting & Decorating
Laurence Farrell
McGuire's Garden Centre
Murphy Larkin Timber Products
Porta
Sealant Store
Sienna Home Furnishings
Tara Blinds
Woodpecker Floors & Tiles

HR & RECRUITMENT

AA Euro Recruitment Group
Hartley People Group
Matrix Recruitment
Morgan McKinley

Osborne Recruitment
Turas Nua

HR SERVICES

Brigid Milner
Darlington Consulting
John Walsh HR Consultancy
Ria White HR & Training
Simmons & Simmons
SimplifyHR
Turas Nua

INSURANCE

Arachas
AXA Insurance Waterford
BMCI Insurance & Investments
Campion Insurance
ezfees financial
Kiely Gaule Financial Services
Vhi

IT SERVICES

Agora Publishing Services Ireland
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Fyrefli
Trilateral Research
Unitec

MANUFACTURING

Apparel Supply
APS Materials, Inc.
Ball Beverage Packaging Ireland
Bausch + Lomb
Carten Controls
CMC Hygea
Codico Distributors
Eco-Burner
Eirgen Pharma
ELC Laser Group
Glazik
Haleon
Jabil Healthcare
MEDITE SMARTPLY
Orafol Europe
PPI Adhesive Products
Repligen Ireland
Sanofi
Schivo Group
Signode Packaging Ireland
South Eastern Chemicals
Swedencare Ireland
Teva Pharmaceuticals Ireland
Waterford Distilling Group
West Pharma

MARKETING & PR

Agora Integrated Marketing
The Forest
Frission Creative
Market Dynamics
Passion For Creative

MEDIA

Beat 102-103
International Living
The Munster Express
Waterford News & Star
WLR FM

OFFICE SUPPLIES

OfficeMaster

PHOTOGRAPHER

Brownes Photography
David Murphy Studio
DigiCol Photography
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Garrett FitzGerald Photography
Noel Browne Photographer
Paddy Tubbritt Photography

PRINT & SIGNAGE

Cantec Group
Charisma Design
Focus Visual Communication
Graphic Image
OfficeMaster
Tagline Print & Design
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PROPERTY

Brophy Cusack
Causeway Group
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Ennis Gough Property
Hutchinson Auctioneers
Lawrence & McDonald
Liberty Blue
M&M O'Shea
O'Shea O'Toole
O'Shea Properties
Purcell Properties
RE/MAX Team Fogarty
Sherry FitzGerald John Rohan
Smart Move Properties
Thomas Halley Auctioneers
Whitebox

PUBS

Jack Meades
Number 21 Off License
The Reg
Robinson's Bar
Tully's Bar

RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

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SEAM Research Centre
Trilateral Research
Walton Institute

RESTAURANTS & CAFÉS

Azzurro Restaurant
Bishop's Palace Café
Dooly's
Everett's Restaurant
High Horse Coffee
One the Waterfront
Piper's Café & Churro Bar
The Reg
The Riverside Cottage
Shirley's Delicatessen
T&H Doolan's
The Holiday Shops
Zambrero Ardkeen

RETAIL

Alfie Hale Sports
Altitude
Ardkeen Quality Food Store
Auto Boland
Bolands Waterford
Brennan's Pharmacy
Cahill's Tramore
Carry Out
City Square Shopping Centre
Cove & Co Paint Studio
Delany's Pharmacy
ElectroCity Waterford
Evolution
Fitz U
Fitzgerald's Menswear
Full of Beans
George Corbett Motors
Heroes
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Kelly's of Waterford
Lexus Waterford
Maxi Zoo
Morris's Builders Providers & DIY
Mulligan's Pharmacy
One Tech Mobiles
Phelan's Pharmacy
Power's Pharmacy
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Sienna Home Furnishings
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Tramore Service Station
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SERVICES

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EveryEvent
Ezmar Event Management
Frescold Services
Germar Electrical & Security
Hyde Lee Nexus
Infosys BPM
Nigel M. Daly Electrical Ltd
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Q1 Scientific
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Peter O'Connor & Son Solicitors
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Cantec Group
Compar
Dataworks
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Euro Tachograph Solutions
Euryka
Fyrefli
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Honeywell Aerospace Technologies
HumanEdge+
Klearcom
Li4
MetaBinary
NEG8 Carbon
Passion For Creative
Pimbrook Software
Red Hat
Sedicii Innovations
Sun Life
Threefold Systems

TOURISM & HOSPITALITY

Atlantic View Caravan Park
Beachside Apartments
Failte Ireland
Fitzmaurice's Caravan Park
Newtown Cove Caravan & Camping Park
Seacourt Accommodation
Strand Travel Worldchoice
Tramore Tourist Office

TRAINING & COACHING

Avalon Training
Benedek Frank
Browne Fire and Security
CCS Facilities
Clarity Coach
Direct Training Ireland
Doug Dane Consulting
GreenTech HQ
Hyde Lee Nexus
Inspiring Excellence
Irish Management Institute
LCE Workplace Safety
Li4
MCX Training & Development
Mediforce Ltd
Monica Jackman
National Learning Network
Roadskill Training Centre
Ruya Advisory
Simmons & Simmons
Sinead O'Neill Consulting
Waterford Chamber Skillnet

TRANSPORT & LOGISTICS

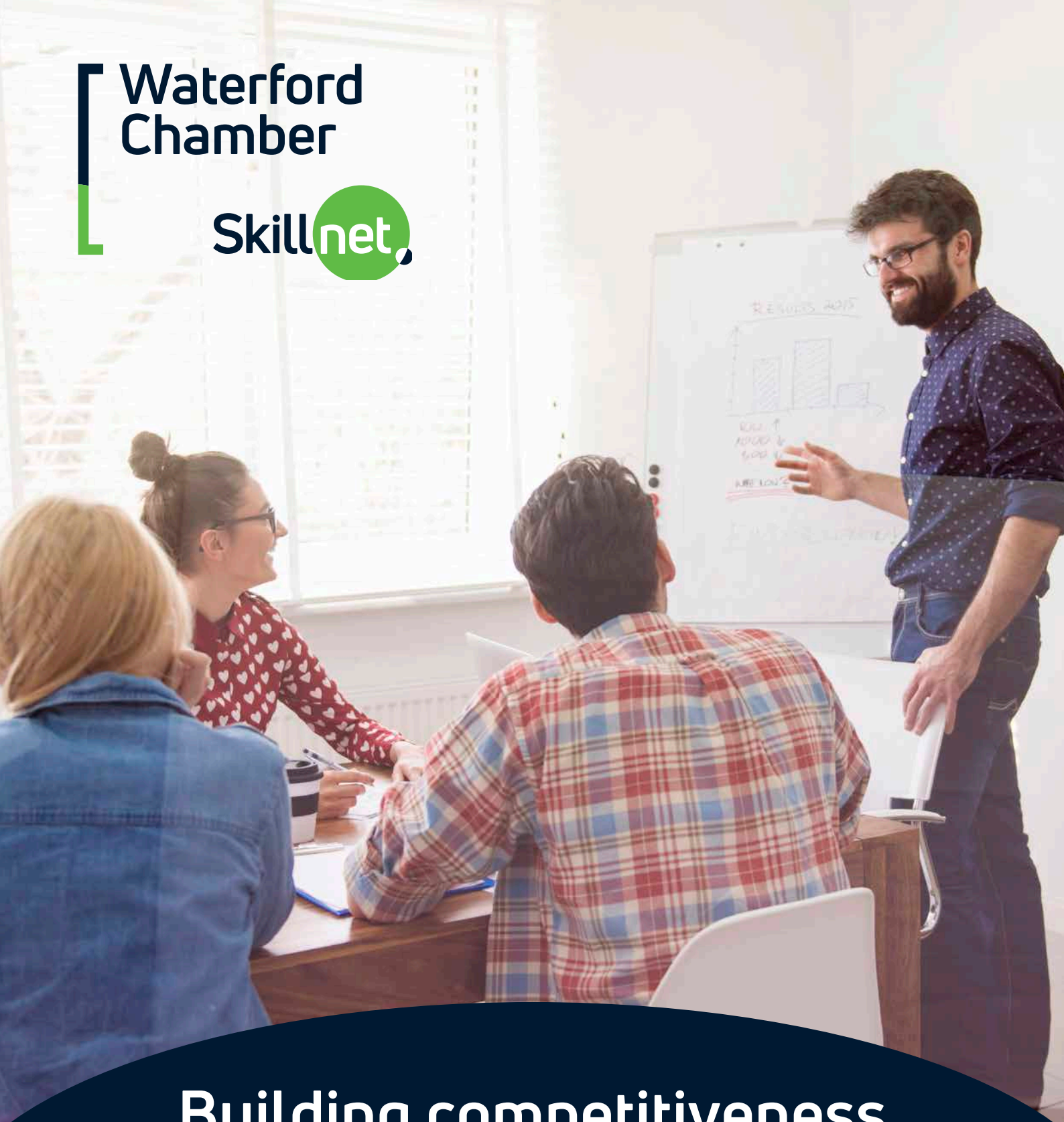
Bell Transport & Logistics
Emerald Cargo Forwarding
Euro Tachograph Solutions
Irish Rail
J.J. Kavanagh Coaches
James Falconer Chauffeur Hire
MAC Trans Freight
Marine Point Partnership
Passage East Ferry
Port of Waterford
Rapid Cabs
Rapid Exec
Rent-A-Box
Southeast Port Services
Storage City
Store-All Logistics
Thomas Carey T&T Coaches
Tidal Marine
Trans-Stock Warehousing & Cold Storage
U Store It
Waterford Airport

WEBSITE SERVICES

Benedek Frank
The Forest
Fyrefli
Hosting Ireland
Passion For Creative
Success Online
TOTEM

WHOLESALE

Curran Foods & Express Cuisine
Musgrave MarketPlace



Waterford Chamber

Skillnet

Building competitiveness for businesses through skills

Celebrating 25 years supporting Waterford business through talent development

www.waterfordskillnet.ie

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Skillnet IRELAND

An Roinn Breisoideachais agus Ardoideachais, Taighde, Nuálaíochta agus Eolaíochta
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