



# THE TIDY TOWNS OF IRELAND

*Celebrating 50 years*



Comhaltas, Oidhreacht agus Rialtas Árainn  
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Comhaltas, Oidhreacht agus Rialtas Áitiúil  
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 Tidy Towns

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## GLASLOUGH, CO MONAGHAN

winner, 1978

### Estate of the art



SITUATED IN THE fertile Blackwater River basin, Glaslough is a charming and historic estate village located 10km north-east of Monaghan town.

The Monaghan bypass means visitors can reach the village in an hour and a half from Dublin and, as the town rests on the border with Northern Ireland, it is a gateway to the North.

With 300 inhabitants, Glaslough has retained its estate ambience. Large walls, a village green and Scottish-style stone houses are still visible, and many of its stone houses date from the early 19th Century.

It is most renowned for having grown up around the 1,000-acre Castle Leslie demesne and its picturesque Glaslough Lake, which gives the village its name. The Scottish baronial castle, which was built in the 1660s, has welcomed everyone from poets to politicians over the years.

The estate, which boasts stunning grounds, has the honour of being one of just 30 Irish castle estates that are still run by the original family.

Nearby Donagh graveyard contains the ruins of an early Christian church and high cross. This is the burial place of

the McKenna chieftains, and is the only cemetery in the Diocese of Clogher to be home to four headstones from the 17th Century. Three of these headstones are dated 1666.

Stone carvings at the graveyard were made by the McKay family, who were the official stone cutters for the Leslies. Their work can also be seen in Errigal, Clones and Tydavnet graveyards.

Glaslough benefits from equestrian facilities — a bonus for riding enthusiasts either living in or visiting the area, who can enjoy cross-country and all-weather rides.

This is one of many reasons international visitors are attracted to Glaslough — some come to experience a stay at its castle or other accommodation options around the village, while others come to make use of the many facilities and activities available in the area.

Those with an interest in architecture will enjoy the many well-preserved stone buildings and monuments in the village, including the Leslie Memorial. This was built by Sir John Leslie in memory of his brother Charles, from whom he inherited the Castle Leslie estate.





Due to the rich topographical landscape surrounding Glaslough, farming remains a strong source of employment in the locality. When approaching the village, tracts of wooden plantations help conceal it from view, giving Glaslough the aura of a sanctuary tucked away from the strains of modern life.

Visitors will not be short of things to do — activities available in the area include everything from cookery lessons to music.

According to Michael Fitzpatrick, treasurer of Glaslough Development Association, the Glaslough TidyTowns committee continues to build on its TidyTowns success in 1978. As new times bring new challenges, its priority these days is to work with all the relevant bodies involved in the ongoing development of the village to ensure it retains its village charm and ambience for future generations.



Glaslough, c.1978



• Glaslough  
Co Monaghan

### On the Tourist Trail

#### Donagh graveyard

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#### Local amenities

Visitors to Glaslough can avail of equestrian facilities, cookery lessons and spa treatments, or simply enjoy the lakes, streams and countryside around it.

For more, see [www.discoverireland.ie](http://www.discoverireland.ie).



