

# OTTERLY YOUGHAL



A photograph of Ollie the Otter taken on November 20th, 2020 by local photographer Shane Pomphrett (@dustyyaw!)



Comhairle Contae Chorcaí  
Cork County Council



[www.corknaturenetwork.ie](http://www.corknaturenetwork.ie)



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# Welcome to the Otterly Youghal Booklet

**W**e at Cork Nature Network have created this booklet as a part of our otter's project, which was established to raise awareness around otters living in Irish urban areas.

This wouldn't have been possible without the help of those from Youghal Blue and Green Community Network, as well as a few Youghal locals. Included in this booklet will be some information about otters, news about our otter project in Youghal and some fun stories and memories of Olly the Otter.



## ABOUT OTTERS

The Eurasian otter is found throughout Europe and Asia. Their numbers have been declining since the 1960s. In Ireland, however, their numbers have remained relatively steady. Because of this, Ireland is known as the stronghold for the Eurasian otter. Otters can be found all around Ireland.

Otters live in holts or couches along waterways. They can live in places such as rivers, lakes, streams, and even coastal areas. Otters living in coastal areas such as Youghal must also have access to a freshwater system in order to be able to clean their fur.

Otters are top predators. They hunt animals such as fish (in particular salmon and trout), and even small frogs and birds. They use their whiskers to sense the vibrations and movement of prey in the water to help them hunt.

Otters are a protected species in Ireland, meaning that it is illegal to hunt or intentionally harm them. However, they still face many threats such as habitat loss, pollution and even traffic. As otters are a keystone species, it is so important to protect and conserve otters by raising awareness about them.

One such way to educate and raise awareness is World Otter Day is May 26th, celebrated globally by otter lovers all over the world. It was founded by the International Otter Survival Fund to raise awareness of the dangers that otters face in an increasingly urbanized world.



# OLLIE THE OTTER

**O**llie the Otter was a favourite local to see around town. He had been frequently spotted walking through town in 2020, a very charismatic and active presence in the area.

The loss of this delightful otter was felt throughout this town, and reminded us of the need to take care of the wildlife in our urban spaces.

*Photographs of Ollie the Otter taken between November 20th and 22nd, 2020 by local photographer Shane Pomphrett (@dustyawwl)*

## LOCAL OTTER LOVE

Irish artist Sean Corcoran created a beautiful sand drawing of an otter at Claycastle Beach during Heritage Week 2021 to honour Ollie and promote greater awareness of otters in Cork.

*“An otter in the sand” by Sean Corcoran (clip from the Cork Nature Network video of the event on Youtube)*



*Ollie enjoying a day out on November 22nd, 2020 taken by local Youghal photographer Shane Pomphrett (@dustyawwl)*

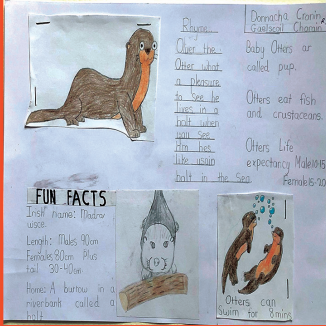
*Photos of an otter taken along the Slob Bank by Teresa Ahearne on March 13th, 2022.*

It is lovely to have such a recent otter sighting!



# SCHOOL CREATIVE COMPETITION WINNERS

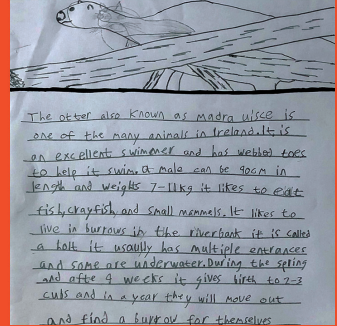
## WINNERS



**DONNACHA CRONIN, 4TH CLASS**

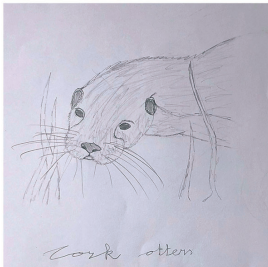


**RUAIN MAC FHLANNCHADHA, 6TH CLASS**

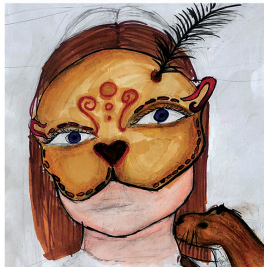


**EVAN COOPER, 5TH CLASS**

## HONOURABLE MENTIONS



**BETH NI CHIONNAOLAIDH, 5TH CLASS**



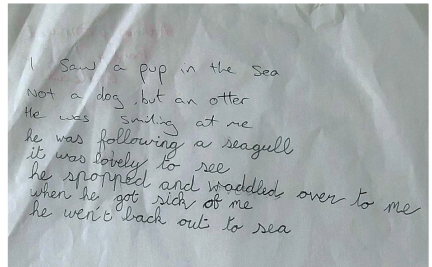
**NESSA NI CHEALLACHAIN, 4TH CLASS**



**FIONN S. MONGAIN, 4TH CLASS**



**NAOISE NI LAOIRE, 4TH CLASS**



**ADHAMH O'DRISCEOL, 4TH CLASS**

A creative contest was held in partnership with Gaelscoil Choráin, where students from the 4th, 5th, and 6th class were encouraged to submit their artwork, stories, poems, and facts about otters.

The students did an amazing job and submitted some wonderful pieces. The winning students received toys, books about otters, and some art supplies. The class also received colouring books from the Cork Heritage Council, pencils from the Local Authority Waters Programme, and a trail camera from Cork Nature Network to set up near the school. We wish them well in their otter spotting!



# Otters in Youghal

## OTTERS OF THE SLOB BANK



**Common name:** Eurasian otter (Scientific name: *Lutra lutra*)

**Irish name:** Dobharchú / Madra uisce

**Conservation status:** Near threatened

*The Eurasian otter is found throughout Europe and Asia and is the only species of otter in Ireland. Ireland is known as a stronghold for the Eurasian otter.*

*The Otter's diet consists mainly of fish (salmon and trout) but they will also eat small mammals, birds, and frogs. They live mainly along freshwater systems but are also found in coastal areas. They live in couches or holts on land.*

*Otters are a protected species in Ireland, which means it is illegal to hunt or intentionally kill or harm them. However, they are still threatened by habitat loss, disturbance, pollution, or accidental deaths on our roads.*

To find out more about otters check out further information on [www.corknaturenetworks.ie](http://www.corknaturenetworks.ie)

This project is funded by Cork County Council.

[www.corknaturenetwork.ie](http://www.corknaturenetwork.ie)

Registered office, An Slobh, Ballinacorney Castle, Youghal, Co. Cork  
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**W**e have put up an information sign along the Slob Bank, an area that is part of the South and East Cork Bird Trail.

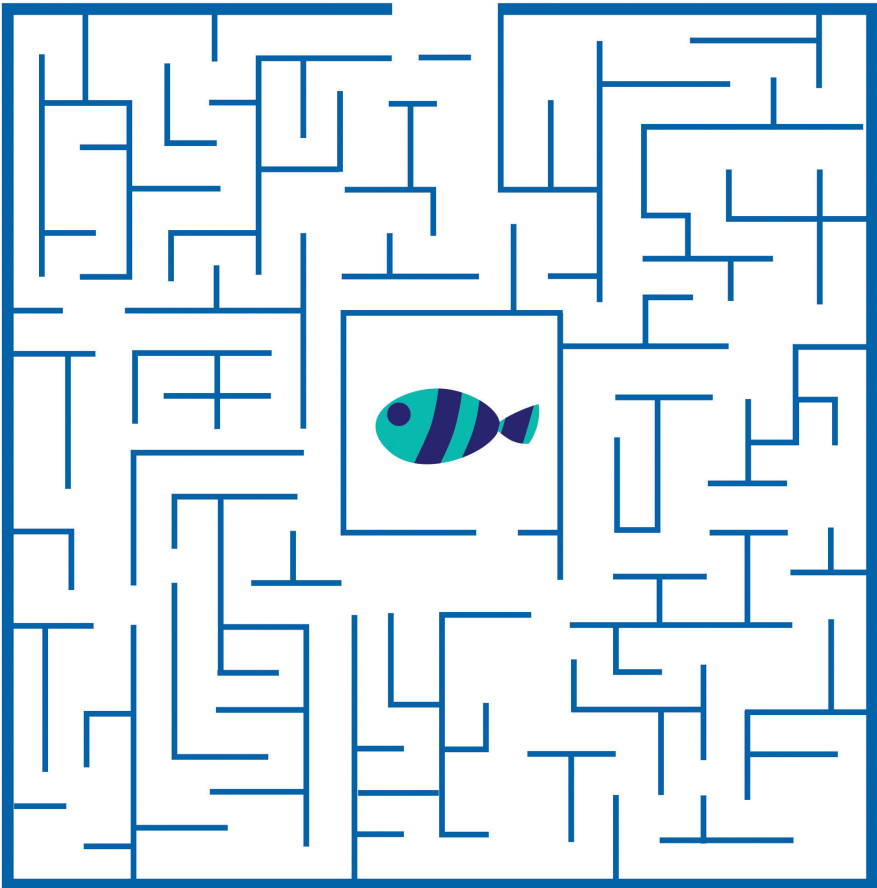
This bank is an excellent habitat for otters, as well as many bird species, and has beautiful views of the estuary.

It is a great place for otter watching, particularly at dawn and dusk.



# An Otterly Fun Activity

Help the **Otter** find the **Fish**





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With special thanks to *Youghal Blue and Green Community Network*, *Teresa Aherne*, *Shane Pomphrett*, *Gaelscoil Choráin*, for their support and to the community of Youghal.