



# Carlow County Museum

In partnership with the  
**Electricity Supply Board**  
presents an exhibition

**“The Quiet Revolution”**  
70th Anniversary of Rural Electrification  
August – December 2016



*An exploration of the implementation and  
impact of the Rural Electrification Scheme*



Energy for  
generations



**CARLOW**  
COUNTY COUNCIL  
COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHEATHARLOCHA

19  
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2016

Clár Comórtha  
Céad Bliain  
Centenary  
Programme



Carlow Historical & Archaeological Society

The Rural Electrification Scheme has been described as one of the greatest social and economic developments in twentieth-century Ireland. The first phase of the scheme was implemented between 1946 and 1965, with post-development work continuing until the late 1970s. In order to roll out the scheme, Ireland was divided into 792 'rural areas', 17 of which fell under Carlow county boundaries. This exhibition explores the bringing of the light to Carlow, from the first public lighting in 1891, to the implementation of rural electrification in the area (1947–1963). Those who worked on the scheme, including PJ Dowling, Carlow Person of the 20th Century, became known as the 'Rural Pioneers'. These men and women left a lasting legacy not only to ESB but to the rural communities in which they operated and to the development of Irish society.

Photographs: ESB Archives



### Free Admission

Carlow County Museum,  
College Street, Carlow Town, R93 E3T2

### Opening Hours:

Monday - Saturday  
10.00am - 4.30pm September to May  
Monday - Saturday 10.00am - 5.00pm June - August  
Sundays & Banks Holidays 2.00pm - 4.30pm June - August

Tel: 059 913 1554

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 Carlow County Museum  
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