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be inspired

Kinvara Girl Guides

FOR THE PAST FOUR YEARS, the Kinvara Girl Guides have been active in caving and abseiling; they have visited the Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition in Dublin; trekked in Oughtmama and Aughinish; and raised money for tsunami survivors, the MS Society and Amnesty International. Brownies are for girls aged 6½ to 11, and Guides for girls aged 10½ to 15. The older group, Guides, focuses on fun, challenge and leadership. Any Guide meeting might find us learning map-reading and orienteering skills, dancing to Latin American music, planning future camping and outdoor events, or playing wild games!

In Springtime we prepare for our annual camping trip. In past years, we have been to Petersburg Adventure Centre and Willow Brook Activity Centre; this year we are heading to the Burren Outdoor Education Centre (BOEC). In addition, our oldest and most experienced Guides will be heading off to their first international camp in Warwickshire, England, where they will meet Guides from Australia, Bermuda, Canada, Ghana, Japan and more, for a week of fun and adventure.

We welcome all girls; you don't have to live in Kinvara. This year we have Guides from Kilcolgan and Tubber, as well as Kinvara. We particularly welcome new leaders – if you have an interest in working with a great group of girls and have a bit of time to offer, please consider volunteering. If you'd like more information, please ring Catherine Cronin at 091 638299, or speak with any of the Kinvara Guide leaders: Valerie Forkan, Ailish O'Shea, Mary Maloney, Carmel O'Connor or Mary Roche.

And don't just listen to us! Here's what Kinvara Guides themselves have to say about being in Guides: "I enjoyed camping most because I met new friends and learned new things"... "I liked the campfire and rafting"... "I liked camping out and being dependent on myself and on my friends"... "the best part of Guides is the fun, the trips, the friends, the Guiders, EVERYTHING!"

Catherine Cronin

Kinvara Bridge Club

KINVARA BRIDGE CLUB meets in the Merriman Hotel on Monday nights. Formed in 1975, the club is still going strong, with around 40 members. The season runs from September to May.

Many competitions are run over the year and neighbouring clubs are entertained and they reciprocate the hospitality. The biggest event of the year is the Cruinniú na mBád Bridge Tournament, which is held in Kinvara in August. Over 200 players from all parts of the country attend. Kinvara has always been a very sociable club and this accounts for its continued success. The club also contributes to charitable causes and the generosity of its members is much appreciated. New members are always welcome. Anyone wishing to join should contact Marie O'Shaughnessy, tel: 637221.

Kinvara Needs Adult Drama Group

KINVARA HAS A LONG TRADITION OF DRAMA, with many great productions in the Community Centre since the '70s. For the younger generation, drama is still thriving but we are lacking an adult drama group at present. Next Autumn we aim to remedy this by developing a Drama Group for the Kinvara area. We will need the assistance of anyone involved in past Kinvara productions, new members

of the community with experience of acting or production and also anyone who wants to try treading the boards for the first time. With all the new faces in Kinvara there must be lots of talent waiting to be discovered. Actors, directors, producers, stage designers, costume designers, back stage crew, sound, lighting, publicity - we need you all. If you are interested please contact Hayden on 091 637674.

Kinvara Community Drama Group

THE KINVARA COMMUNITY DRAMA GROUP is locally-based and run voluntarily. Originally set up by Caroline Mc Daid, the group has grown over the years from strength to strength. We have approximately 60 members, split into two groups, 8-10 year-olds and 11 upwards. The group has had a challenging start to 2006. The very essential repair work ongoing in the Community Centre has left the group temporarily without a venue. This unfortunately precluded the staging of a play this Spring. While repairs are ongoing, the group will focus its talents on a fundraising effort to assist the Community Council to meet the costs of the repair work. This will involve the staging of an event in the Community Centre when it reopens.

The principal aims of the group are to provide a vehicle for our children to express themselves through drama and music, irrespective of ability (there is always something for every one!). Many of our younger

members also get involved in the organisational aspects such as stage management, set production, make-up, lighting and sound. In addition to drama productions, the group runs weekly workshops to help our kids explore their own creativity, develop their talents and self-confidence in a comfortable, fun-filled environment. The group is always keen to support local events. Over the years, it has run workshops for kids during the Cuckoo Fleadh. In addition to providing alternative activity for young children it gives children on our waiting lists a taste of what lies ahead. Another example would be the group's involvement in the recent Sewage Scheme protest in January: our "Umpa Lumpas" did us proud!

The group is looking forward to getting back into "full swing" as soon as the Community Centre reopens – so watch out folks the best has yet to come!!

Eilish Kavanagh