

TRÁCT

Kinvara's Community Magazine €8



Secondary Education in Kinvara
Securing the future

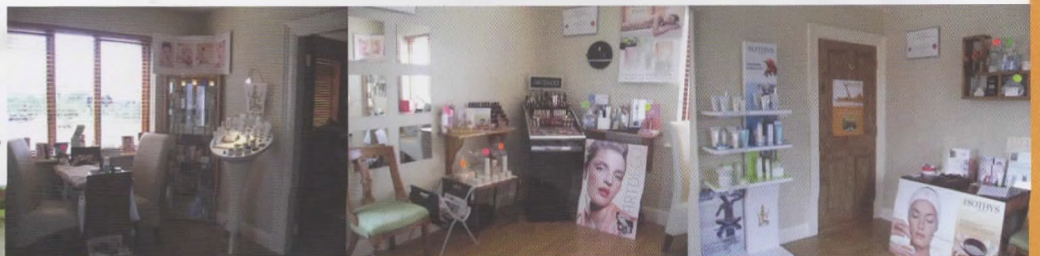
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Contents

	Page
Editorial Page	2
Moving Forward in the Community	3
Community Centre update	4
New Clinic in Kinvara	4
Newcomers in Kinvara	5
Closure of Seamount – The Fight goes on	6
Memories of Seamount	8
Sr Pius remembers	9
Developments in Kinvara Business Sector 2006-2008	11
Kinvara and the Developing World	12
Kinvara volunteer on TV	15
Kinvara District Services Directory 2009	15
Profile: Helen O'Connor	17
Musicians of Kinvara	18
Tidy Towns Update	19
Kinvara Area Music Collective	20
Kinvara Teenage Open Mic – First Sunday	21
Kinvara Youth Club	22
Kinvara Scouts at the Jamboree 2008	22
Bringing LIFE back to Burren grasslands	23
New crop of Burren experts take ownership of their local heritage	24
Credit Unions - 50 Years Of Service	26
Kinvara Town Plan - Awards, No Action and Little Relief	28
Letter from the US	29
Growing Older in Kinvara	30
Kinvara Village Development - The European Connection	32
Proposal to create bay walk	33
Pollution in Kinvara Bay	36
Swimming and Water Safety	37
An tAmhrán Beo – 20 years	37
Hidden Landscapes around Kinvara	38
St Coman's Church	40
Meitheal na mBádóirí renovates Pucán	43
What is it about Cruinniú na mBád?	44
Cruinniú na mBád 30 years on	45
Delamain Lodge	46
New Children's Centre for Kinvara	48
Burren Yoga and Meditation Centre	48
Doorús Orchard Project	49
Kinvara Drama Group – What's been happening	49
Yacht Khepri Travel Log 2006-2007	50
Kinvara's Primary Schools	51
Development Education in Kinvara	53
Young Foresters 1988	55
Time to Play?	55
Kinvara Hurlers Win Bronze	56
Hurling in Kinvara: A Perspective	58
Kinvara Camogie Club 2006-2008	59
Inaugural Kinvara Road Hurling Competition	60
Profile: Liadáin O'Donovan	61
Poets' Corner	62
Book Clubs in Kinvara	63
Profile: John ffrench	64
Anne Vesey	65
Transitions	66
Obituaries	67

TRÁCHT IS THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE of Kinvara Community Council. We would like to thank our contributors, and especially the team who volunteered to produce this edition, without whose help there would be no magazine. Likewise, many thanks to our advertisers, to Deborah Evers, and to the retail outlets for their continued support. A very special thanks to Frans Boon, Kinvara fan and philanthropist, who agreed to sponsor this edition of *Trácht*. Go raibh míle maith agaibh go léir.

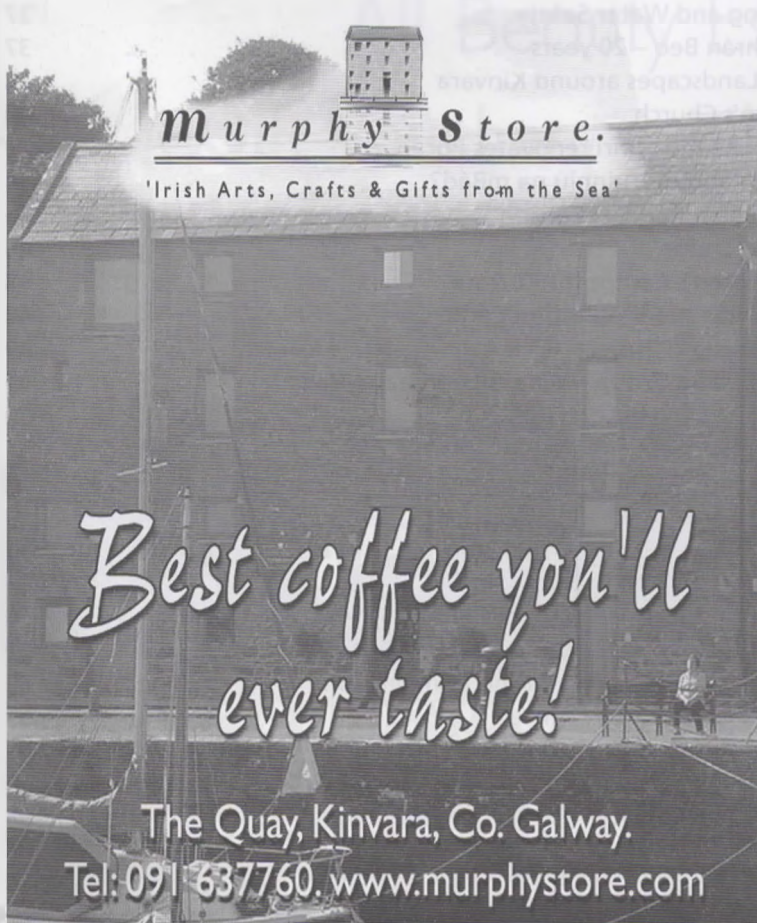
As we go to press, the world, as Seán O'Casey said, "is in a state of chassis". The boom has deflated, gone bust, and the consequences of reckless trading globally may yet have repercussions even in Kinvara.

Trácht magazine aims to provide a chronicle of our times here in Kinvara. The articles we publish record the ongoing events in the parish, of a community facing the challenges that arise, and celebrating its achievements. Both aspects are amply reflected

in these pages. A community pulls together to save its secondary school, promised but not yet guaranteed. The Community Centre has been refurbished (stage 2 to follow) and the current loan may be paid off, with the community's help, within 18 months. A new childcare centre will open on the same grounds, all being well. And the long-awaited playground has now been promised. But we still have no sewage treatment plant; affordable housing remains a

growing problem, as do improved facilities for our young and old people. And the local pub, traditionally a social outlet and meeting place for friends and neighbours (and the lonesome) has been badly hit in recent times due to changes in legislation.

Amid the turbulence of world affairs, and the search for material wealth and well-being, people still find fulfillment in giving up their valuable time for the common good, be it in here Kinvara or far away in the Third World. The mundane, doing the ordinary, brings its rewards as people from all walks of life meet and work together in a spirit of common purpose. Whether helping out in sport, education, recreation or social work at home and abroad, the Kinvara community remains more than generous. Long may this continue.



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Moving Forward in the Community

Trácht is produced on a biannual basis by Kinvara Community Council. While the practicalities of producing a magazine require a lot of work from those involved, it is also a great experience in marketing and journalism. More importantly it allows us to record our Community history as it happens and also permits a look-back at previous years, both recent and distant.

A Community Council acts as a forum or council for the community to meet, discuss, and plan all aspects of our natural and built environment. Over the past many years a huge number of people have given freely of their time and skills in an effort to improve our surroundings. One of the difficulties is that opinions within any large group of people will vary widely and it is the challenge and responsibility of the Community Council to be inclusive and representative. We try to respect and build on past achievements. This is not always easy as it is in the nature of voluntary work that people move on as job and family commitments change. New people bring fresh and differing angles to the Council and force us to re-appraise many of our existing plans and traditions. This is a welcome development and we are fortunate that so many civic-minded individuals choose to become active locally in this way. Within this scenario it is crucial that long-term members who have given so much retain some involvement, as their experience is vital.

MAKING PROGRESS

Sometimes progress seems so slow we wonder will it ever come! One of the many lessons we learned from our interaction with Community Council groups from other European countries in the EU Transnational Village project last year was to be proud of what you do achieve. Look around you and admire the Childcare Centre incorporating Creche, and the After School and Playgroup facilities for our young, currently being constructed on the Community Centre grounds. Check out the cleared site beside St Joseph's National School, where the new playground is to be located. Ask your T.D. or Local County Councillor to put pressure at County Council level to progress the Kinvara Sewage System. It will happen, and is currently at the stage of detailed design by Engineers Ryan Hanley. Unfortunately the process is slow and may be affected by a changed economy nationally.

Among the other lessons I have learned over the last few years is the way in which Local Government works on the ground. In other European countries, even small towns have elected officials with a budget for improvements, which they themselves administer. In Ireland the closest Government is at County level and while we can ourselves agitate to improve this

situation the reform of Local Government is not something that will happen quickly. Regardless of how open the various County Council departments may appear to our suggestions on planning or essential infrastructure, our depositions are nonetheless treated by Council officials as if they were from an individual, rather than from the Community Council, which represents the entire Community. Council officials and elected Councillors make all these decisions on our behalf and if we wish to influence these decisions we must use the system that exists. We could consider the possibility of electing someone from the Kinvara area at the upcoming Local Elections. In previous years a Councillor who lived here in Kinvara was able to listen to the problems locally and act accordingly.

To all those who have helped in the many projects undertaken by the Community Council over the last two years I thank you sincerely. We will continue, with your help, to do the best we can.

Maria Hannigan
Chairperson Kinvara
Community Council



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Community Centre UPDATE

The Community Centre, re-roofed and refurbished, re-opened in 2007. As well as the roof and rewiring there are new windows, ceilings and fire doors. The toilets were upgraded, a new fully equipped kitchen was installed and the floor in the day room was replaced. The total cost was €131,000 of which €55,000 came from an EU grant via Galway Rural Development, €46,000 was raised locally and the remaining €30,000 was financed by Credit Union loan. Half of that has now been repaid. The rest should be cleared by the end of next year when plans will be made for further improvements to the building and its facilities.

Depending on the availability of grants and the success of local fund raising, these could include an extension of the stage to the rear of the building, storage and assembly/dressing areas to its side, a disabled toilet and improvements to the building's structure, lighting and insulation. At the back of the new Childcare Centre adjacent to the Hall, the Community Council hopes to build an awning connecting the two buildings and a shed alongside it so that chairs don't have to be stored and brought down from the loft.

Since it re-opened, the Centre is pretty much booked up on weekday evenings between September and May. During the day, it is used for physical training by Seamount School. At the

weekend, it provides facilities on an irregular basis for music, dancing (the hall now has a dance license) and theatre.

EXTENSIVE USE OF HALL

Groups using the hall include the GAA, local soccer clubs, the Badminton Club, the Scouts, the Cubs, the Musician's Collective, Open Mike (music and disco's for teenagers), regular drama classes for children, occasional drama productions for adults, dance, music and Tae Kwon-do classes for children, keep fit, yoga and kick boxing for adults and activities for young people on Friday evening. For contacts for these, enquiries about hiring the hall or any other business relating to the Community Centre call Richard Broad on 637631 or email him at rbroad@eircom.net.

Although refurbishing the hall was a major community effort, special thanks are due to Damien Mitchell, the local builder who did most of the work, Finbarr Brogan who donated the fitted kitchen, Pat Mac Namara who installed it for free, John Britton for designing the roof and other engineering work without charging a fee. The Credit Union Loan was guaranteed by Liz Murphy, Murphy Heating, Jim Fennell, and Mike Burke who also helped cash flow the project.

Richard Broad

NEW CLINIC in Kinvara

The new Kinvara Clinic developed by Dr Matt O'Flaherty is a multidisciplinary health facility offering a range of medical and allied services. This new state of the art premises is located in Kinvara West, and offers ample parking, easy access, convenient opening hours and a full range of health services.

As well as offering General Practitioner services, the new facility will offer Nursing, Physiotherapy and Optometry specialists on a full-time basis. A Dentist is also joining the team, plus a range of complementary therapists and practitioners, to include Reflexologists, Chiropodists and Counselling Services.

Dr Matt has been operating from the Health Centre in Kinvara since 2002 with a staff of 7. Recent recruits to the team include Nuala Mac Mahon and Mary Hanley, both qualified nurses. The practice has a strong patient base and specialises in General Family and Paediatric Medicine. The range of services on offer include ECG, Executive Health Screening, Cryotherapy, Spirometry, designated Womens' Health sessions, Minor Surgery, Ante Natal Services and Child Health Immunisation Programmes. Dr Matt and the team look forward to meeting all their clients at the new facility. Kinvara Clinic can be contacted at 091 637123 or at kinvaragp@eircom.net

Newcomers in Kinvara

Kinvara's population has exploded in the past few years, and doing an article about newcomers filled me with dread. Where to start? I realised that writing about cosmopolitan Kinvara would be so much easier. Off the top of my head I can think of people living here who are from England, France, Italy, Germany, Sweden, Denmark, Belgium, Poland, Lithuania, South Africa, Lebanon, Sri Lanka, Brazil, the Philippines, the United States, Canada, the Seychelles, Cuba, China and Japan. I am sure there are other nationalities. What an interesting, multicultural community Kinvara has become. Having met this small selection of people who chose to settle here, I realise that such a wealth of diversity in our community can only serve to enrich us all.

MARTA RUTOWSKA

Marta comes from Gubin, a city in the West of Poland. Half of Gubin is in Germany and the other half in Poland. She came to Ireland two years ago on holiday, but liked it so much she stayed. Her brother told her about the beautiful West and she eventually came to work in Doorus Hostel. Marta's main work and interest is photography. She loves nature and the landscape round Kinvara inspires her. Since moving here she fell in love, decided to stay and as we go to print is expecting a baby. Marta says Kinvara people have been extremely friendly and helpful to her since she came and she finds great freedom and peace here.

SIAN EUSTACE

Sian is from Bishops Waltham, a small town near Southampton in the South of England. She met her Irish husband Tom while studying Psychology and French in Paris, and so moved to Ireland. While both of them were working in Galway, they wanted to move out of the city, so separately looked at the map, and both came to the same decision. Kinvara was the place. Sian is a qualified Homeopath, and believes strongly that unless you eat proper food you will get ill. She has opened a Health Food Shop in Kinvara and thinks

Kinvara is an amazing, supportive community. She would like to thank everybody who has made her feel so welcome and feels that she and Tom have come home.

SAVITHRI SENARTNE

Savithri is Sri Lankan and was born on the West coast of the capital, Colombo. She obtained her degree in Civil Engineering and Hydrology in NUIG and while there made some good friends in Kinvara. As she works freelance and most of her work is based here, she decided to move with her daughter Rhada, as she much prefers rural living to the city. Rhada goes to school in Seamount, has settled in easily and made good friends. Savithri thinks the Kinvara people are much friendlier, helpful and open than those living in the city and likes living here very much.

EMERSON ANTONIO NUNEZ OLIVERA

Emerson comes from the city of Goias in Brazil. His mother, father and two sisters are still living there. Emerson spent six years in Dundalk, working as a butcher, but was lonely and having family living in Gort decided to move. In his spare time he is the lead singer in a very successful band called Euro Samba, which has six members and plays gigs all over

Ireland. He started working in Fallons last year, loves working for Niall and holds him in very high regard. He reckons Niall Fallon is a gentle, even-tempered man and finds Kinvara a great place to work.

MERCEDES VARONA PEREIRA

Born in Havana, Cuba, Mercedes comes from a large family of seven children. Her mother has passed away but her father and her siblings still reside in Cuba. Mercedes is one of the fourth generation of babies born after the Revolution, so there were lots of expectations for that generation. University was compulsory and as a result most of her contemporaries have degrees. After completing her five-year Mechanical Engineering degree, Mercedes worked for a further five years as an Engineer in the University. She moved to Galway in 1990. Four years later, she took a course on Chinese Medicine in Nicaragua. She loved it and had a fantastic time working with small communities there. Returning to Galway she started thinking about settling down, and ended up buying a site in Knockaculleen, where she built a house. For Mercedes, Kinvara is a beautiful, special place, a village yet very cosmopolitan. You can meet people from all over the world; there are so many musicians, artists and writers, which makes it very interesting. Also, there's a great feeling of people pulling together as a community, which doesn't happen in the city. With all the developments, the character of the village is changing and she does not know if the whole community will benefit but still feels privileged to live in such a wonderful place.

Rosaleen Daly

Closure of Seamount the fight goes on...

The planned closure of Seamount College, first announced in October 2006, came as a great shock. Why was the Department of Education allowing the Mercy Order to close a quality secondary school when the population growth in the South Galway area was set to explode? After a hard fought community campaign, the Government has given its commitment to build a co-educational post primary school in Kinvara by 2012, and the Office of Public Works has been instructed to locate a suitable site. However, experience has taught us that we cannot afford to be complacent and we must keep this project moving forward. Seamount is to close in 2012; we value the tradition of education and have worked too hard to accept anything less from our Government.

The Sisters of Mercy first opened Seamount College in 1922. During these 86 years, the Mercy Order and its staff have opened the hearts and minds of thousands of women to the wonders of education and set them on a solid path for life. No small wonder then, when the closure of Seamount College was first announced, that the entire community were stunned and angry. Within two days, a public meeting was held at Seamount; it certainly was a sight to behold, with as many people outside as inside. The hurt and anger expressed that night was harnessed into a steely determination to save Seamount, and the public representatives present were left in no doubt of our determination not to go away.

START OF CAMPAIGN

RESCUE was set up to spearhead the Save Seamount Campaign. From the very offset a professional approach was adopted. Using CSO data and enrolment figures collected from primary and secondary schools, the Save Seamount campaign established that the population growth and pupil enrolment was so great that to close Seamount College would create a real and immediate educational crisis and adversely affect the nearest secondary schools in Gort and Oranmore. The group embarked on a very intensive and effective media campaign to convey the key messages that: * If Seamount closes, some 800 children in North Clare /South Galway will be without secondary school places; * Second-level education in Kinvara must be retained and developed on a modern co-educational basis to meet this need; * Kinvara's long tradition of education was worth saving. During the first year, a core group of some 20 people met every Tuesday evening; together they developed an effective campaign that was to reach its climax in the run-up to the general election in June 2007.

Just before Christmas 2006, a small delegation met with the Minister of Education, Mary Hanafin. It was great to have the opportunity to put Seamount's case directly to the Minister but the group quickly realised that they had an uphill battle on their hands. In January 2007, Enda Kenny, leader of Fine Gael, made a welcome visit to the college where he expressed his

party's support to the continuation of secondary education in Kinvara. This was followed on March 3 by a visit by the Tánaiste, Michael McDowell to Seamount. His unambiguous support generated a lot of national media coverage. At this stage, no other party had yet fully committed to this. On March 7, two buses departed Kinvara Quay on a school outing with a difference; students, parents, staff and community members headed for Dáil Éireann. Civics class in practice! They brought with them 11,111 signatures of support to present to the Minister for Education and Science. They were accompanied by local musicians who played wonderful traditional music at the gates of Leinster House; this set the tone for the day – a dignified and resolute demonstration of the determination that existed to save Seamount. The group met many politicians and journalists; parents and students were interviewed for news programmes by TV3 and TG4.

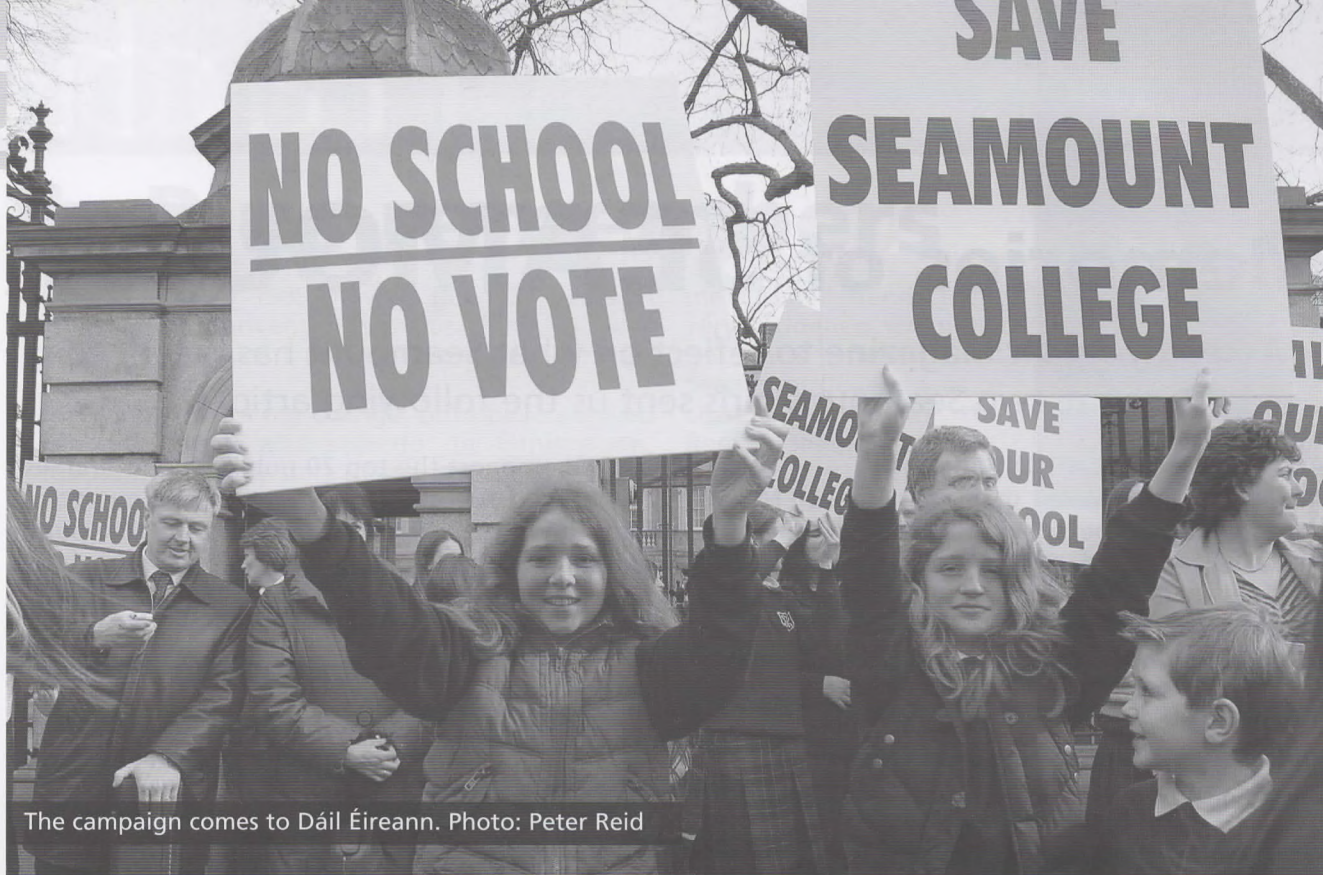


Patricia Clarke presents campaign petition to Brian Lenihan TD at Dáil Éireann. Photo: Peter Reid

ELECTION PROMISES

As the election approached, Fine Gael and Labour also gave unequivocal commitments to the continuing provision of second level education in Kinvara. The Greens and Sinn Féin followed. Local Fianna Fáil TDs worked hard on the community's behalf, but theirs was now the only party that had not made this commitment at national level. RESCUE highlighted this difference in a hard-hitting campaign in the media and on the door step. On May 16 2007, in the midst of the final run-up to the election, Mary Hanafin gave a commitment that a new post primary school would be built in Kinvara by 2012. In June, the Mercy Trustees responded to the Minister and allowed an intake of first-year pupils.

Seamount College's student population continues to flourish. First-year intake in 2008 was up 40% and total school enrolment up 10%. Numbers are continuing to grow across the catchment's feeder primary schools. The school's high standing demonstrates that the staff and pupils are working hard and focused firmly on the future; they are ready to transfer en masse to the new school building in 2012.



The campaign comes to Dáil Éireann. Photo: Peter Reid

RESCUE has now been informed by the Department that the Office of Public Works is to seek a suitable site within walking distance of the village for the new school. Each and every step is a painful process. Kinvara will have its co-ed second level school, but it will take ongoing pressure to get the Department of Education and its political appointee to bring this about. The local elections are to be held in 2009. RESCUE takes the government's commitment to our community in good faith but these elections will provide an ideal opportunity for a timely reminder.

The people of the area need to see the process move forward in a tangible and real way; the site must now be purchased and our school built. When the politicians come knocking on your door, ask them why it takes so long to do so little.

It was collective community determination that brought this campaign this far and it will be the same unified community action that will see the key turned on the door of Kinvara's new co-ed secondary school. More information: Jane Joyce. Mobile: 086 3863311 fordejoyce@msn.com

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Memories of SEAMOUNT

Asked by *Trácht* Magazine to reflect on what Seamount has meant for them, two Seamount girls sent us the following articles.

A LOVE HATE RELATIONSHIP

Ah, Seamount... Mixed memories I have! My first day of school, petrified out of my mind as I tentatively walked down the intimidating halls towards my first class with the scariest teacher... For the whole first week I associated that distinctive school smell with dread. But it got better. Eventually the feeling I got from Seamount was associated with normalcy and (dare I admit it), good craic with my friends. Underneath the typical teenage pretence, ("Christ! I hate school"), there is actual love that we all have for the place. The in-jokes we have . . . the moments with certain teachers where we get the shock of our lives in finding out they actually do have a sense of humour... the unfortunate trouble we've all been in for wearing earrings or possessing chewing gum... It's ending though. For no particularly good reason, our school won't be a school much longer. As a Leaving Cert student, my Seamount experience is nearing an end anyway so you'll have to forgive me if I'm being ridiculously nostalgic.

We will miss the little building perched on a hill in Kinvara and I'm sure Kinvara will miss it too. I can only hope that the replacement school will be as good as our one.

It'll be hard to beat.

Jordan Lilis

A CERTAIN ATMOSPHERE

In less than nine months, my days at Seamount College will be nothing more than memories, but oh what memories they shall be!

My very first memory of the place, the 2004 open day, a small child, staring up at the large building that before had just blended with the rest of the village. Now it almost seemed to loom over my little town. Its flock of black crows watched down as I walked into its long halls. Grey building, tall trees, its very own flock of crows - not exactly brochure material. Not what I'd call, love at first sight. I was uneasy with the place during my first few days, but through a change of heart, (or perhaps, and more likely, a form of Stockholm syndrome!) I have actually grown to, dare I say, love the place? On the open day, all those years ago I placed my education's future in the capable hands of Seamount. It is not a decision I regret. Seamount teaches the valuable lesson of how to put your head down, and get the work done.

The college has consistently had students achieving some of the highest grades in the country. It is

ranked amongst the top 20 public schools and also has a good reputation for success in competitions like the Tesco Young Chef and BPW's public speaking competition. All of this is great, but let's face it, that's not why we like it. Seamount has a certain atmosphere. A certain air of hard work mixed with the sound of high-pitched giggles. It is such a small school that every student knows every teacher and vice versa. For me, it is a place of comfort, a place where we are challenged but also supported. As a senior I soon have to leave this comfortable world of being looked after and enter the big scary world of adulthood. After my five years here I can say I am confident that I've been taught all the skills I need to get where I want to go in life.

The closure of Seamount is a great loss to the community and I am proud to have been a part of the school.

Alison Dufresne

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Sr Pius remembers



I came here in 1989, having been 37 years in Ennistymon Convent. I was teaching in Scoil Mhuire for 33 years and was principal there for eight years.

It certainly was a big change, but I have enjoyed my time here, and still do. In Ennistymon, teaching was only part of the Sister's day. Every evening after school and at week-ends, we visited and helped families. During the summer holidays, we took children on holidays who would otherwise never have holidays. Social work, such as this, is very rewarding. I missed this work when I came here. At Seamount, my subjects were Religion, Irish, History and Geography. I taught Latin for many years.

When I came here in 1989, Seamount was a boarding school (until 1996). As I had worked in a day school during my entire teaching career in Ennistymon, working with boarders was a new experience for me and no doubt, very challenging. As the girls were away from home, they were often lonely. I enjoyed bringing them for walks after school and got to know them very well. Some of them are still in contact with me. Sleeping in a cubicle at nights, which was part of the dormitory, was not funny at times!

My saddest memory was the sudden illness and death of Sr Laurence. She had been in this school for 50 years. Her passing away was a great loss to

me and her friends. I was very saddened when we got the news that Seamount College was to close. Thanks to the Rescue Seamount Team, the principal, staff, Sisters here and the parents were granted a reprieve.

Though I am retired from teaching for the past seven years, I now enjoy education to its fullest. I saw a great need for Learning Support for the students. As I operate without a rigid time table, I feel I have got to the heart of education at last. I thank God each morning that I have my health to be available to students who need help with their subjects. Each year I watched the amazing achievements of students. Since I have retired I also have the time to tend to the spiritual needs of students by organising guided meditation and relaxation. It is also important to be available to students who are going through bereavement. My hope for Kinvara is that a Catholic Mercy ethos will continue into the future and that the holistic education which we now offer will continue to be provided.

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to give expression to my passion for education.

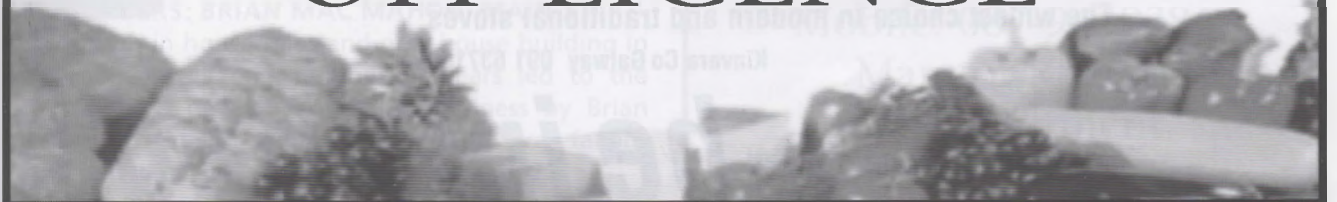
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Developments in Kinvara Business Sector 2006-2008

LONDIS PLUS

The redevelopment of Londis Supermarket and the adjoining buildings in Main St and Market Square, is possibly the largest undertaking by any business in Kinvara in recent times. The Crane Centre, named by John Burke after the crane that stood in Market Square, will include a much enlarged supermarket, Londis Plus and a larger Pharmacy, a Hairdressers, Chinese restaurant and Beautician. A Bookmakers and a new Cafe will also be included.

In 1983 John first opened a supermarket on a part-greenfield part-derelict site on Main St. Londis Plus will provide an increased range of goods, with floor space measuring over 10,000 square feet, wider aisles and easier access to goods along with an extended range of fresh and frozen foods. John says his staff numbers will also more than double following completion of the project.

Above and behind the new Crane Centre are office spaces and accommodation. Also included are 60 customer car parking spaces. The first phase of this development was opened in early September 2008 with the opening of Londis Plus. The second phase is due to open in March 2009.

HEALING HARVEST

In September 2007 Sian Morgan opened her organic and eco-friendly shop on the site of the previous Art and Craft shop, the House of Presents which was run for about 8 years by the Grass, a German husband and wife team who returned to live in Austria after a happy and productive time in Kinvara. Sian has already settled in and is happy with her choice of location. Read the interview with her on the Newcomers' page.

THE SECRET GARDEN

A very recent newcomer to Kinvara is Beshlie Birch who opened her premises The Secret Garden, Craft Boutique on Quay St beside Connolly's pub in July 2008. This shop stocks adult and children's clothing mainly by independent designers as well as Beslies own label, handmade jewellery, bags, hats and accessories. Apart from the fact that Beshlie grew up close by in Kilbeacanty she says that she was attracted to Kinvara by its relaxed and creative atmosphere.

AUCTIONEERS: BRIAN MAC MAHON, MAIN ST

The growth in house sales and new house building in Kinvara over the past number of years led to the opening of a new auctioneering business by Brian McMahon, a member of a well-known local family, who opened his new premises in Main St in 2006.

He previously worked with the Remax group in Galway. Brian employs one other Auctioneer. GMC Mortgages and General Insurances now also operate out of his building.

THE WASHING WELL

This launderette was opened by Valerie O'Hanlon from Carnamadra in 2006. Since then Valerie has expanded to in-house dry cleaning and all types of alterations. She now employs three members of staff and has long opening hours.

LIDDYS COSTCUTTERS

The supermarket and petrol pumps formerly run by Mac Mahons were re-opened this year under the stewardship of Tom Liddy. Tom is from Ennis and already has three stores in Co. Clare. This is his first venture in Galway and he feels already that Kinvara is a good place to do business in.

Maria Hannigan

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Kinvara

and the Developing World

An increasing number of people from Kinvara and surrounding parishes have worked on projects in developing countries. They include our curate, Fr Ned Casey and Fr Phonsie Flatley, both of whom were in Nigeria. The following are projects with which some other local people have been involved over recent years.

NIALL MELLON TOWNSHIP TRUST

"A family's stability begins with having a safe place to call home'. Aoife Droney of Kinvara, Mattie O'Shaughnessy of Killina, John Glynn of Currenrue and Niko Lascar of Knockaculeen are among the many volunteers who have travelled to different parts of Capetown, South Africa, to eradicate urban poverty there by helping to build sustainable communities. This is done by replacing shacks with low-cost, high-quality housing and providing community facilities, such as Community Centres. Volunteers had to raise at least €5,000 each. This was done by way of Poker Classics, Breakfast Mornings, etc. All exceeded their targets, thanks to generous local support.

The volunteers worked in different townships. In two areas 300 houses were built, and a Community Centre in another area. The townships have unemployment rates of over 50% and huge instances of HIV/Aids. Most residents have no access to clean water, electricity or sanitation. Niko Lascar found the whole experience absolutely overwhelming and extremely intense, from the enthusiastic welcome given to the Irish by the township residents, to the extreme poverty in which they lived, juxtaposed with the wealth of

Capetown and the luxury accommodation provided for the volunteers.

For seven days, the volunteers rose at 6.30am and worked until 5pm. Approximately 200 houses were completed, including a community centre and a 'Garden of Hope', providing proper housing for about 1,000 people for the first time in their lives. All the workers received great satisfaction from their participation in the project and some of them have gone out a few times. For more information, see the website www.irishtownship.com. Donations can be made through the website or given directly to a volunteer.

CHRISTINA NOBLE CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION

Mary Keogh of Kinvara spent three months in Vietnam doing valuable work with poor children, whose greatest need, she found, was for love and warmth. She has also helped projects in Mongolia, where Ulaan Baatar is the coldest capital in the world. The greatest need there, she found, was to provide suitable accommodation and, thanks to the people of Kinvara, seven homes were provided for families in the past year.

Because of climate changes the livelihood of hundreds of herder families are being destroyed and there is now huge migration to the capital. These families often have nothing and the foundation provides 'gers' (family homes) to as many as possible. Children are given special assistance and families are provided with free medical help.

Mary raised the huge sum of €23,000 in Kinvara through an art auction, with paintings donated by highly acclaimed artists, Jim

McKee, Mark Dwyer, Ken Hall and Fran McCann.

For more information, see: www.cncf.org

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Dr Mick O'Toole of Cloonasee went to Namibia in 1992 to work in the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources to help build capacity in Fisheries and Oceanography in the newly independent state. He was later appointed Head of a United Nations Development Programme to put together a regional project that would allow Namibia, Angola and South Africa to jointly manage their marine resources and protect the marine environment of the Benguela region, stretching along the Atlantic coasts of the three countries. This became possible because of Namibia's newly won independence, the end of apartheid, the election of a democratic government in South Africa, and the end of the civil war in Angola.

With the development work completed, Mick was offered a position by the UNDP to coordinate and manage the project over a six-year period (2002 – 2008). The Global Environment Facility of the World Bank, in partnership with the participating governments, contributed over US\$35 million to what became known as the Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem project. Its primary aim was to address transboundary issues, including the management and migration of valuable fish stocks across national boundaries, harmful algal blooms, alien invasive species and pollutants that can be carried by winds and currents from the waters of one country into another.

One of its major goals was to establish a Benguela Current Commission, to enable the three countries to engage constructively and peacefully in resolving regional issues that threaten the fisheries, biodiversity and environment of the Benguela Current region. It also provided a framework to implement an ecosystem-based management approach, increased the benefits derived from the management and harvesting of shared fish stocks and improved the capacity and overall management of human impacts on this large and unique ocean area. The Commission was launched in August 2006.

Mick feels it was a great privilege to have been involved in such a project, and to put together a sustainable management regime to rebuild the fish stocks and protect the environment of the Benguela Current region for future generations.

For more information on the project, see website: www.bclme.org

SEALDAH LORETO, CALCUTTA

Moya and Stan Mac Eoin have spent a month annually for the past number of years working on a project to provide accommodation and education to girls rescued from the pavements and slums of Calcutta. It was initiated 30 years ago by Loreto nun, Sr. Cyril Mooney from Bray, who was horrified at the physical and sexual violence, allied to deprivation and homelessness, visited on many young girls.

Girls in the regular school tutor the deprived children to a standard where they can fit in to classes suitable to their age. Visiting volunteers also help with this work. The house in which Moya and Stan stayed was home to the original Sisters of Charity convent set up by Mother Teresa. There are many sisters now in Calcutta, caring for the 'poorest of the poor' sick, dying and disabled. Moya and Stan spent part of their

time helping in some of their hospitals and orphanages. In 2007 they were joined for a week by Ian Cahill of Coole, Gort. They also spent a month in Assam. Moya helped train teachers for a new primary school set up by the Salesian order, a few miles from the capital, Silchar. Stan taught information technology to students in the technical school and English to adults, amid electricity failures. Fundraising events for the Sealdah School have proven the supportive generosity

invited several friends, including Gina, to join her on a return trip to Mekele in June 2007. The group, which included both Irish and American volunteers, completed work on a library and clinic built with the funds they raised. They replaced 90 mattresses, installed three mechanical brailers in the library, distributed 90 collapsible walking sticks, established a regular fruit delivery to the school, and filled the little clinic with basic first aid supplies, among many other



Dualta Griffin distributing mosquito nets.

of people in Kinvara and farther afield. For more information on the project, see: www.loretosealdah.com

MEKELE BLIND SCHOOL, ETHIOPIA

Chris Hanley, the American wife of Richard Johnston of Johnston's Hall, and Gina Kilkelly of Ballyvaughan, a niece of Frank Flatley's, have made a strong commitment to the Mekele Blind School in northern Ethiopia. Chris was introduced to the MBS in June 2006, while she was in Mekele doing educational work in schools for sighted children there. The brutal poverty she witnessed at the school for the 100+ blind children who live there moved her deeply, and she began raising funds to make improvements. She

things.

Gina has returned to Mekele three times, most recently for a working period of over six months. She and Chris, with Anike Tyrrell of Dungarvan, recently met in Addis Ababa to inspect workshops for the blind with the hope of establishing a similar one in Mekele. Please check out the website for the project: www.mekeleblindschool.org

ADENTA-ACCRA, GHANA

A new church was needed in Fr Colm Nilan's parish. While home in Boherbee, on holiday, a conversation with Catherine and Paschal Quinn led to the idea of a 'Breakfast Morning' fundraiser. Others came on board and Mike Burke agreed to host the event in the Pier Head. Ticket sellers,

restaurant staff, musicians and huge support ensured that €21,000 was raised.

The enthusiastic members of the Parish Council of Holy Rosary Church, Adenta-Accra, were overjoyed. One parishioner, a structural engineer, gave invaluable service, and employment was given to masons and carpenters. Weekly collections supplemented the Kinvara contribution and the substructure, pillars and beams were in place within a year, all done manually. However, there was no money for the roof! Colm reluctantly shared

his problem with his neighbours and friends once more. They got their hard-working committee together again and this time an incredible €33,000 was raised from a dinner at the Pier Head. His parishioners then applied to their local credit union in Adenta-Accra for the balance. The church was roofed, a solid floor put down and the church community is growing ever since.

President Mary McAleese, paying tribute to Irish missionaries, said that they were the first development workers. From the beginning the missionaries were

involved in building schools, hospitals, clinics and much more. Missionaries get to know the culture, the laws and regulations governing land, which, generally are very complicated. The Holy Rosary Church is now a place of worship. The parish is extremely grateful to the communities of Kinvara and New Quay-Carron, and the church will be completed over the next few years.

COMOROS ISLANDS

SUHA Ireland is a Kinvara-based voluntary project run by family and friends of Triona and Dualta Griffin in the Comoros Island in Africa, one of the poorest countries in the world. It aims to provide children under 5 with protection from harmful diseases, in particular malaria, mainly through education and the supply of mosquito nets which, according to the World Health Organisation, is the most efficient form of protection. Every 30 seconds, a child dies from malaria in Africa. SUHA Ireland holds an annual fundraiser in Kinvara, the 'Cuckoo Dunk' supported by members of the community. Local support for this sponsored dip in the sea has been very generous, especially from the schools. The support has helped provide education and nets to 3,000 children.

Something as simple as a mosquito net can greatly improve and even save someone's life. The SUHA Ireland organisers, along with the people of the Comoros Island, wish to thank the Kinvara community for its continuing support. If you would like to help, you can either give a donation privately or support our dunkers. SUHA Ireland also works through the schools providing information in the community; 100% of all monies collected go directly towards the buying of mosquito nets. For more information, contact suhairland@gmail.com (SUHA Ireland website in preparation)

Compiled by Stan Mac Eoin

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Kinvara volunteer on TV

Time to mention a moving documentary, Scoil an tSolais, by Indian film-maker Pranjali Bhave, the first in TG4's new series of Cogar.

Bhave filmed Moya Mac Eoin, a retired Galway schoolteacher, on one of her frequent trips to Kolkata (Calcutta) in India. Moya works with Loreto nun Sr Cyril Mooney, who founded a school for street children in Kolkata, incorporating the Rainbow Project for girls, some of whom have experienced terrifying and brutal experiences on the streets of the city. She has also, remarkably, opened up her classrooms to provide night shelter for 700 children.

There are 13 million people in Kolkata, Mac Eoin told us, a third of them living on the street. "You wouldn't believe it until you see it."

This was a quietly inspirational film which (though maybe I'm being naive) seemed once again to testify to the power of that single drop in an ocean.

(Irish Times, Oct 4, 2008. TV Review: the documentary was also edited by Kinvara film maker, Johnny White)

Kinvara District Services Directory 2009

We are currently updating The Kinvara District Services Directory of 1998 an A-Z Directory of phone numbers of individuals, voluntary organisations, local groups, and sports clubs. There is no charge for individual or group listings in this Directory.

Businesses can promote their service also (limited number of pages available at €100 per page).

Please complete below in BLOCK CAPITALS details and return to: The Project Group, Kinvara

Community Centre, Kinvara, Co. Galway by January 31st 2009.

Please send any other details along with logos & digital images where appropriate. The Kinvara Project Group venture is a non-profit making enterprise to promote Kinvara its businesses/services and amenities. The Directory will be launched and marketed in October 2009. More details: Mary Smyth 087-2502755 (Coordinator).

Application Form Kinvara District Services Directory 2009

Surname Name: _____

First Name: _____

Address: _____

County: _____

Company Name/Service/Group _____

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Profile: HELEN O'CONNOR

Originally from Belmullet Co. Mayo, Helen O'Connor has been part of Kinvara Community Life for the past 30 years. She moved here in 1978 when she married Jimmy O'Connor, of Doorus. They made their home in Kinvara village and have a family of three boys and one girl. Helen became involved in the local community when she met Stan Mac Eoin, Paddy Geraghty & May Monaghan. She became involved in a range of activities, firstly with the Community Council where she helped run the Sales of Work on an annual basis for the upkeep of the local Community Centre. Through the years she has been on the Tidy Towns Committee, a member of The Pioneer and GAA Clubs, and a volunteer with the Credit Union for many years, where she now works full-time.

She has also devoted her energies to the Kinvara Swimming Club. For the past 30 years, the club has been accessible to all children in the community, regardless of their means. The club gives all children the chance to learn to swim whatever their backgrounds. Approximately 60 children are taught swimming on Saturdays. As a result, they can enjoy many aquatic sports, and members of the club down through the years have saved many lives not only in Galway and Clare but further afield. Along with Stan, and her long time best friend Bridie Corless, a fellow volunteer and neighbour, she continues to work voluntarily for the Kinvara Swimming Club, founded in 1969.

UNABLE TO SWIM AT FIRST

When Helen first settled in Kinvara as a young parent she couldn't swim. She attended swimming classes for adults, and progressed into the club as a helper/volunteer with small children. Every Saturday morning year in year out they bussed the children of Kinvara & surrounding areas to Kilcornan Swimming Pool. She smiles as she remembers. "In the early days Paddy would collect 50 pence from each child and this would pay for the bus, the pool, and the insurance." She, and Bridie not only taught the children to swim; they would shower, shampoo, and help them to dress afterwards. How times have changed, she said. "Nowadays with Child Protection etc. the swimming instructors are not allowed to be hands-on in the dressing rooms." Swimming was an important part of her own children's upbringing, and her son Shane is still involved in the club. "It made very responsible adults out of them".

Helen became a fully-qualified swimming instructor, a lifesaving instructor and a water safety examiner, one of six in Co. Galway. As an examiner, she gives instruction in: a) water safety b) basic life support from beginners to beach lifeguard. She has trained lifeguards for many years; the lifeguards work in North Galway & Clare, eligible swimmers aged 12 or over can join the lifesaving classes held on Saturdays (5-7) in

Kilcornan Swimming Pool. She is also a volunteer with Octopus Swimming Club run by Mary Aragan Langan for physically-challenged people. This club is run on Mondays 8-9 pm and is a free service held in the Brothers of Charity pool, open to all.

MEMORIES OF 9/11

I met with Helen on the anniversary of 9/11. She had been in the USA then, visiting her son, and was caught up in mayhem that followed the attack on the Twin Towers. It was difficult to believe how America shut down that day, she said, reflecting on how the most powerful country in the world had no phones, busses, cars, just nothing following the bombing. Luckily, she, her husband and son were in South Jersey at the time and they survived that awful day.

As a volunteer all these years, she gets a great satisfaction to see a job well done. She would like to see more people becoming volunteers in the community. There is a lot of work to be done in Kinvara especially with Tidy Towns and other committees. She finished our chat asking me to give a special mention to her husband Jimmy for his patience and understanding through the years.

Mary Smyth



Photo: Ger Ryan.

Musicians of KINVARA

The musical landscape of Kinvara changes from month to month and from year to year, depending on who is resident here and who's passing through. Since Jackie Daly and Charlie Piggott held court in local pubs during the 1980s and early 1990s, when they were joined by Johnny Ringo McDonagh, Kinvara has become a magnet for musicians of many styles and with widely differing pedigrees, drawn by its reputation as an unusually music-friendly environment.

However, during 2008 many of Kinvara's pubs, which over the years had hosted countless nights of musical revelry, stood hushed and almost empty during much of the week. The enforcement of both drink-driving laws and the smoking ban seems to have precipitated an unprecedented change in the social habits of Ireland's rural dwellers. It

seems that the pub is no longer the 'living room' of the community as it had been for previous generations. This change could herald the gradual loss of many of the musicians mentioned below, whose livelihoods depend in part on the patronage of local publicans – so if you value the contribution of musicians to your community, please do support them.

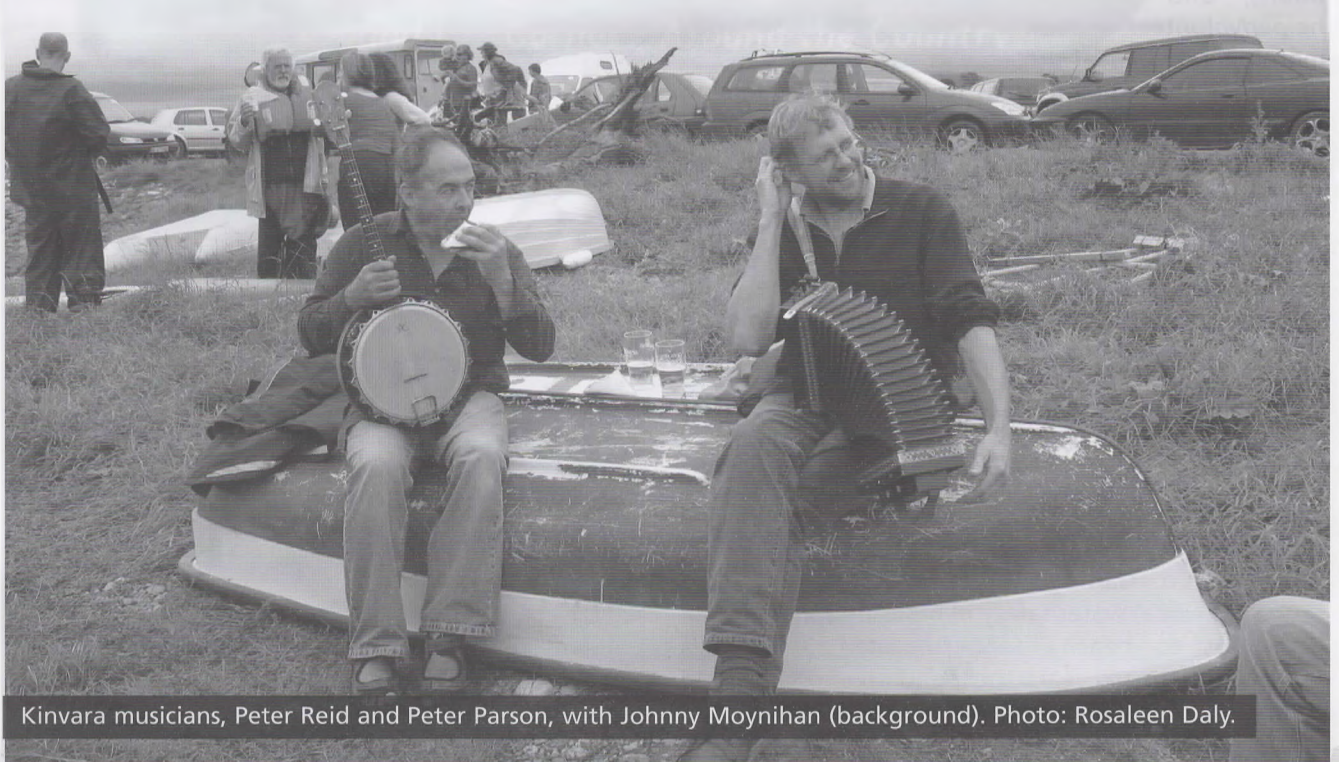
Whilst the winter months were exceptionally quiet, there was no shortage of musical entertainment to be heard locally in recent times, with the variety of music on offer far exceeding anything heard here previously. In the past, traditional music was most commonly heard, but now, name almost any different style you can think of, and you are likely to find an expert living in our midst.

VARIETY OF MUSIC

On one particular Saturday night in July 2008 the entertainment included: Country/Folk with Paul Mulligan and John Prine in the Merriman Hotel; a KAM concert

with singer songwriters Mike Considine and Bob McNeill (a Scot living in New Zealand) in Johnston's Hall; Chad Dughi from Hawaii playing the best in Country Blues in Tully's; the beautifully crafted Argentinian tangos, French waltzes and classical works played by Paul Gunning, Paul Corbett and Alan Wallace in Keogh's; and a rocking Trad. session in Connolly's pub with Andrew MacNamara, Paul O'Shaughnessy and Peter Reid with a crowd listening intently to the finest in the Irish tradition.

The very same weekend, Peter Parson, Mike & Sue Fahy played for set dancing in the Pier Head; the regular Friday night blues session with Stillwater Blues (started more than 10 years ago) delighted all in Flatleys; Mary Shannon and Mary Staunton kept the crowds happy early on Sunday evening and John Conneely played a one-off session with friends in Greens. John is that rare thing, a musician born and raised in Kinvara! In Nogra that Sunday Stewart Cowell, Luke McCarthy, John Colfer and Fred



Kinvara musicians, Peter Reid and Peter Parson, with Johnny Moynihan (background). Photo: Rosaleen Daly.

Rogers entertained all present with their songs and musical capers.

Where else would you get it? Kinvara has something very special. A wealth of musical talent that surely cannot be matched anywhere else in the country, in such a small town. We have many excellent musicians: those who have chosen it as a profession; and those who play just for pleasure; music and singing teachers; and lots of adults, young people and children at various stages in the learning process, all excited by the one thing – making music.

Living in our midst are many top musicians such as fiddle players Máire O'Keeffe, Eilish O'Connor, Brendan Larrisey, box-player Charlie Harris, string players Garry O'Briain, Brendan O'Regan, and Frank Kilkelly; the great singer, multi-instrumentalist and wordsmith Johnny Moynihan, the multi-talented Eugene Lambe, whistle player, piper, singer and instrument maker; and the well-known singer/songwriter John Faulkner whose repertoire draws on a long folk tradition . . . and these are just some of the traditional musicians.

We can listen to the smooth and faultless voice of Mette Jensen's Jazz, accompanied by Peter Brazier

on piano, guitar and mandolin. Or if you want to dance your socks off then John Martin and his band Boucherie will transport you to the Bayou, playing Cajun tunes from French Louisiana.. If singing is your passion, Greens pub hosts a monthly session (First Monday), where you will find a fine array of local and visiting singers.

A HOME FROM HOME

Several Americans have made Kinvara their home in recent years. Frank Hall from Indiana plays Old Time American fiddle with the band Moonshine and stand-up bass with Café Kinvara, who play a variety of world music (this line-up includes Anne Kinane, Gaie Stewart, and Eileen Fleming on harp). John Prine from Nashville has made Kinvara his summer home. John is a star of Country music and has a special gift for songwriting. His songs look at everyday experiences in a very special light. Chad Dughi has a vast knowledge of early American folk blues and, like Johnny Moynihan, travels the country in the style of the old troubadours. Rob Stein arrived in Kinvara several years ago and plays both pedal steel and lead guitar in many of the local bands. He has a regular session in Keogh's

accompanying Gwen Frinn, the French flute player. And if you're lucky you may hear Brian Fleming, a highly talented percussion player accompanying any one of those mentioned above.

Two outstanding Trad fiddle players have recently returned to live in Kinvara, relocating themselves here permanently after a long absence. Bartley O'Donnell has come from Adelaide, Australia and Tony Trundle, originally from Newry and a long-term resident of Manchester. Tony can be heard regularly in either Keoghs or the Ould Plaid Shawl, playing fiddle in his carefully controlled, light and rhythmic style, and singing with a voice that commands full attention. The future of music in Kinvara depends upon an enthusiastic and supportive local audience, and ultimately rests in the hands of all those young musicians who work at developing their musical talents. So please keep listening, foot-tapping, singing, playing, dancing, and practising!

Kinvara is alive with music and there are many fine musicians and singers who have not been mentioned here because the list is just too long. Apologies to those who may feel unjustly excluded.

Cath Taylor

Tidy Towns UPDATE

The Kinvara Tidy Towns group has been active for many years. They organised the name stones and flower-beds at the entrances to the town, the flower-bed at St Joseph's National School and the small garden behind the Merriman Hotel among other activities. However in recent times, as the team advanced in years, the job became too onerous for them. This year the Community Council organised a meeting to revitalise this important group, and drew up the following short-term plan:

1. A litter collection in Kinvara's main streets on alternate Saturday mornings.
2. Re-planting and ongoing maintenance of the existing public flower beds.

We organised volunteers to 'adopt a flower-bed' and these successfully kept a colourful display throughout the summer. We managed to have at least two volunteers on the beat around the town from 9 to 10

every alternate Saturday from March to September.

A by-product of our initial litter collection was that we noticed a large amount of cigarette butts outside all of the licensed premises. We have now applied to the Environment Section of Galway County Council for funding to dealing with the cigarette butts. With the support of the business sector we hope to place brightly coloured metal buckets at all pub entrances to improve the situation. Other plans include painting the benches on the green beside the Quay. We hope to enter Kinvara in the Tidy Towns competition but a lot of planning and paperwork is required. We will be looking for lots more help over the coming months so if you have some ideas and would like to get involved, watch out for notices in the Kinvara Newsletter and in public places and come along whenever you can.

Maria Hannigan

Kinvara Area Music Collective

Kinvara Area Music Collective took a leap forward in October 2008 when it held its first AGM and appointed 6 new directors. All community organisations depend upon the enthusiasm, skill, energy and motivation of its volunteers, and KAM is no different. It began with only a handful of people, who put in a tremendous amount of hard work. Born from the shared desire to ensure that music in Kinvara continues to play a central role in the cultural life of the community, Frank Hall, John Martin and Paul Mulligan called several open meetings towards the end of 2006 and KAM was launched by a group of 10 committed individuals.

One of its founding premises was that KAM was to be a community organisation – not a private club. The only criterion for membership is the shared desire to support music-making in Kinvara. We have musicians and non-musicians as members, and any member can start up a project of their choosing, with the support of others. In its first two years of existence, KAM have achieved a lot and hopes to attract more members and see the organisation grow in confidence and strength.

CONCERTS AND CD

So far KAM has staged over 20 concerts, produced a CD of local musicians (on sale in local shops), raised money for the Save Seamount Campaign; installed new acoustic panels in the Community Centre which greatly enhance the acoustics of the main hall, organised a series of summer workshops, registered as a not-for-profit company and set up a membership system with a board of elected directors; set up a website with information on locally organised gigs (see www.kamcollective.com); and gained a small grant from Galway County Council Arts office.

Kinvara has an unusually high number of musicians who share many of the same problems. Making a living as a musician is not something that you might recommend to a school leaver, and part of KAM's origins lay in a desire to share resources and provide a network for all musicians struggling with similar issues. The development of the website is seen as one of the best ways to do this, and KAM volunteers are working diligently on this project.

KAM members are also very conscious of the fact that the nature of rural town socializing has been changing radically in the last couple of years. The pub is no longer centre stage, and the future unknown. Since many of the musicians who have moved to this area over the last 10 years have depended in part on the pub session as an outlet for their talents, some KAM members were wondering what, if anything, will replace this?

This was one of the issues which led to the KAM concerts being established and they have been going from strength to strength as experience broadens. The concert series was set up to provide a musical platform for a variety of musicians as a way of cementing the place of music in the cultural life of Kinvara, and drawing people from outside the district to this unique distinction.

Having the use of Johnston's Hall has been a fantastic opportunity for many community groups in Kinvara in the last year or so and thanks must be extended to Maeve O'Toole for her vision and commitment in this respect. Johnston's offers an atmosphere of intimacy, with good acoustics and seating for up to 100. KAM aims to provide a non-competitive alternative to the pub session, a place to go and hear music, a different experience for musicians and the audience.



Boucherie: L-R: Paul Mulligan, Cormac Dunne, John Martin and Frank Hall play a KAM concert.

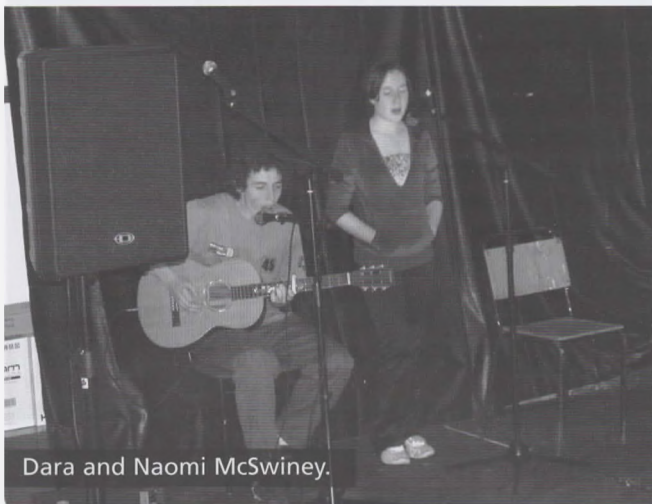
NEW COMPILATION ALBUM

KAM's first CD - KAM COLLECTION volume I - hit the shops in December 2007. With tracks from 15 local musicians or bands, it has only scratched the surface of what's possible and a second CD is in the planning stages now. KAM would love to play its part in finding a way to establish a dedicated arts and music centre for Kinvara. For all the discussions and fundraising which happened in recent years, we are still without the quality of building that we think would serve the community and enhance its reputation as a musical and creative place in the west of Ireland.

The easiest way to contact KAM and get involved, if the mission and any of these projects appeal to you, is to drop an email to info@kamcollective.com, or to come to a concert and join. Anyone joining in 2008 and 2009 will be a charter member. Membership entitles one to concession admission price at all concerts, as well as a voice in KAM affairs.

Cath Taylor

Kinvara Teenage Open Mic First Sunday



Dara and Naomi McSwiney.

For a town its size, Kinvara is unique in the wealth and diversity of the live music available throughout the year, and for the many musicians who now live permanently or temporarily in the surrounding areas. Many of our teenagers avail of music lessons from visiting and local musicians in fiddle, guitar, piano and other instruments, and the idea to establish a performance platform for teenagers arose at least in part because of this. The other reason was the desire to provide more options for "things to do" for this age group in the area.

So the idea for the Kinvara Teenage Open Mic was born, and early in 2007 with the help of Maeve O'Toole from Johnston's Hostel, the microphones were set up and the doors opened on a Sunday evening to see what the response might be. The rest, as they say, is history. The first night was a great success and the event went from strength to strength as the word spread. The first Sunday of the month in Johnstons Hostel was established as Open Mic Night and the teenagers literally got on with the show. We adults were quickly (and rightly) relegated to the role of facilitators/encouragers.

VARIED PERFORMANCES

Performances include singers with guitars, unaccompanied singers, rap, poetry, classical piano, traditional fiddle and beatboxing (vocal percussion using a microphone). Original song and music is intermingled with cover versions of well-known numbers. The sheer entertainment holds the attention and the teenage MCs keep things moving along. One month is never the same as another as individual performers vary their act or join with others on a number just for the night. Some prefer not to perform and go to listen and socialise. Some help with the

sound system (thanks Éanna) and set up. The evening is sociable, entertaining and good fun.

A Teenage Open Mic concert was held in the Community Centre in December 2007 as a fundraiser. The hall was full on the night and with the help of a great sound system, stage, lightshow and backing musicians (thanks to all volunteers) a real quality night's entertainment was provided by the teenagers. The money raised on this night together with a recent VEC grant (from the dormant account funds) is now being used to buy a sound and lighting system for the Kinvara Teenage Open Mic. Hopefully this venture will now go from strength to strength and provide a safe and sociable meeting place for Kinvara teenagers for many years to come.

Kinvara Teenage Open Mic happens the first Sunday of every month at 7.30 PM in Johnstons Hostel Kinvara. Admission is for teenagers who have started secondary school and it costs 2 euro. If you have any queries, the Kinvara Teenage Open Mic facilitators are: Jane Smyth, Alan Wallace, Peter Reid, Anne and Kevin Kinane.

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Dancing at the Youth Disco. Photo: Ger Ryan.

Kinvara Youth Club

An active youth club met in Kinvara for many years before the Community Centre closed down for refurbishment. Restarted in 2007, its primary aim is to provide a safe and relaxed meeting place for our teenagers to socialise in. Activities include basketball or volleyball and table tennis in the Main Hall; pool, listening to music, and board games in the Meeting Room.

Upstairs, members have an opportunity to play musical instruments. Currently we have a very vibrant group who make great use of the Hall, playing sports, listening to Spin SW, or just catching up. Our Youth Club is what the members make it, with minimum intervention from us; we prefer an arm's length approach, providing a social and community-based facility for local kids in a safe environment.

TRAINING AND FUNDING

We are a member of Foróige, a youth club association that provides us with fantastic support and training. We were also granted €1,800 for equipment from the VEC's Dormant Account Fund. Although parents have been very supportive in taking their turn with supervision, the greatest challenge facing us now is finding people who are available on a regular basis to help in running the club. The club meets on a weekly basis. This might become fortnightly if more adult leaders remain unavailable.

Believe it or not, spending time with the teenagers and getting to know them on Friday nights has been a hugely enjoyable and rewarding experience!

Anna Murphy and Catriona Lenihan

Kinvara Scouts at the Jamboree 2008

To celebrate 100 years of scouting in Ireland, Scouting Ireland organised an international "jamboree" at Punchestown Racecourse, Naas, Co. Kildare from 2nd to 10th August. Over 12,000 Irish and overseas scouts and leaders attended.

The 28th Galway Kinvara Scout Group was established in 2004. Based in Kinvara and consisting of both cub and scout sections, our members, male and female, are drawn from all over South Galway and North Clare, but primarily from Kinvara itself. We have a very active group, and, apart from our own weekly activities, we participate in many events throughout the county and province. This, however, was the first time we took part in an international jamboree; 14 scouts and three leaders from Kinvara travelled to Punchestown. Another 18 cubs and three leaders were to join them on Thursday 7th August but due to the foul weather, the organisers abandoned the cub camp.

The jamboree was very severely affected by the "summer" weather. Most of the programme had to be revised due to the strong winds and very heavy rain. The centenary celebrations were curtailed while visitor's day on the Wednesday and the cubs' arrival on Thursday were cancelled. The whole campsite turned into a mud-bath. Our sub-camp was not affected too badly until the very heavy rains on Friday. The scouting motto is "be prepared" and being able to cope with the

constant heavy rain and weather-related challenges proved that our preparations were spot on.

WELL PREPARED

Our scout group had been planning towards this event for the past year. A standing scout camp, planned and built for living in for more than 2/3 days, requires large canvas "Icelandic" tents and dining shelters along with storage facilities and other basic essentials. We purchased extra new equipment but were also fortunate to be able to borrow some from the 19th Galway Gort Scout group who were not attending.

The very bad weather did not dampen our spirits and all our scouts had a very interesting time at the jamboree. They lived under canvas for eight days, took part in lots of different and new activities and met with scouts from all over Ireland and abroad. Leaving Punchestown at the end of the week, the scouts were already discussing the next World Scout Jamboree - in Sweden in 2011. Hopefully the weather will be better there.

If you are interested in finding out some more about our Scout group (either as a cub, scout or leader), our cubs (8-11 year olds) meet on Monday nights and scouts (11-16 year olds) most Thursday nights in the Community Centre.

Eoin Browne

Bringing LIFE back to Burren grasslands

For almost 6000 years the Burren has been home to generations of farmers who have etched out a living from farming the region's rough grasslands. These farmers had to be, and were, innovators: they instigated unique winter grazing systems, built tanks to harvest rainwater and T-shaped walls to shelter livestock, and stocked a range of animals from cattle to sheep to goats. Recent research has confirmed that the farming systems of the Burren are not only culturally significant, but that they are also a key factor in the continued presence in the Burren of rare habitats such as orchid-rich grasslands and exposed limestone pavements.

In recent years it became apparent that the plethora of recent schemes and designations designed to protect the Burren and to support its farmers were not capable of tackling some of the challenges facing the region. Instead, a more targeted, area-specific and inclusive approach was needed to deal with issues arising from land use intensification and abandonment. BurrenLIFE was created to fill this gap. BurrenLIFE is a €2.23m, five year programme of applied research driven by the local farming community. It is built on strong partnerships with the National Parks and Wildlife Service and Teagasc, and is resourced (75%) from the EC LIFE Nature fund. The programme is due to conclude in September 2009. So how has it worked so far?

PROGRESS TO DATE

Over the past four years, BurrenLIFE has worked on 20 'monitor' farms covering almost 3,000ha of land.



Research into innovative feeding regimes for overwintering cattle has been successfully trialled, as have a range of measures for effective scrub removal. Thousands of euros and scores of farmers have been involved in restoring stone walls, improving water supplies for livestock and improving access to farms. All activities have been carefully monitored. Other actions have included the creation of a local producers group for Burren beef and lamb, the delivery of heritage education programmes in local schools and communities, and the instigation of measures to conserve old Irish breeds of goat.

The result of all this work: a detailed blueprint for how best to farm the Burren in a way that is agriculturally, environmentally and socio-economically sustainable. The challenge: to ensure every farmer in the Burren is given the opportunity and support to actively farm for conservation if he/she so wishes. The benefit: that Ireland's most extraordinary landscape is sustained to inspire future generations of residents and visitors from all over the world. For more information, see: www.burrenlife.com or call 065-7089000.

New crop of Burren experts take ownership of their local heritage

In Kinvara we really are blessed in terms of location. A short drive from Galway, yet a world apart; nestled on the shores of Galway Bay with the magnificent Burren standing proud behind. The whole area is steeped in heritage, from Kinvara's vibrant music scene to the Burren's stunning legacy of flowers and monuments.

Though Kinvara is, in every sense, a gateway to the Burren, many of us approach the Burren with some unease or uncertainty, a little daunted maybe by the region's international reputation as a heritage landscape par excellence. Never fear though, help is now at hand! In June 2008, over 220 new Burren experts living in Kinvara, Doorus, New Quay, Tubber, Corofin, Kilnaboy, Kilfenora and Kilshanny graduated and are raring to go. Remarkably, these new Burren enthusiasts are all aged between 9 and 12 and earned their stripes over 20 weeks of intensive learning all about the Burren, in the first ever Heritage Education Programme of its kind in Ireland.

This initiative – titled 'Eco-Beo: My Burren Heritage' – was organised by the Kinvara-based Burrenbeo Trust - and taught students all about the geology, archaeology, ecology and culture of their local area, the Burren. Illustrated classroom talks, regular quizzes, electronic newsletter assignments, field trips and project work all formed part of this intensive course. Even better, the course was designed to complement the school curriculum, so

the children had an even richer, hands-on learning experience.

A SENSE OF PRIDE

The Eco-Beo concept was originally developed by Burrenbeo, which rolled out the Programme to six Burren schools in 2004. Through educating the young people, the future custodians of the Burren, the programme aims to instil among the children a sense of informed pride, ownership and responsibility for their heritage, as well as producing a fresh and fascinating insight into the region for these children.

Some of the Burren graduates were quick to put their new-found knowledge into practice, with appearances on RTE (Kinvara NS were featured on Den TV) and TG4 (Dorus NS). The heritage experts at Kinvara NS even hosted a visit by the Heritage Council of Ireland in June. Course tutors – including locally based Zena Hoctor, Gordon D'Arcy and Brendan Dunford – had better watch out as their 'expert' status is under serious threat from these new local graduates!

This initiative was run by Burrenbeo with support from local businesses and from the Burren Connect Project. Thanks to all students, teachers and parents involved. For more info, please visit www.burrenbeo.com

The Burrenbeo Trust is a registered Charity.



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Credit Unions Years Of Service

Kinvara Community Council has taken many significant initiatives to improve the quality of life for everyone in the area. A hurling field and a community centre were built; the Community Games, Social Services, Tidy Towns, Community Alert, etc. were established and a number of employment/training schemes organised. Infrastructures were improved, such as water supply and telephone service; a slipway and flowerbeds were built. However, its two most notable achievements were the establishment of two co-operative enterprises. A handcraft co-operative was set up, which later expanded to cater for the need of farmers for reasonably priced fertilisers and it also had a boatyard and construction unit, before its services were no longer required in the rising economy. The second cooperative enterprise came with the establishment of a study group in 1991 to examine the need for a Credit Union, 33 years after the first Credit Union in Ireland was set up at a time of dire unemployment and huge emigration.

The 18-person study group met weekly and spent nine months deliberating and getting advice from other Credit Unions (especially Gort) and from ILCU officials. The group studied legislation, the rules, history and philosophy of the movement, operating principles, and saved (50p a week per person!). Sub-committees made recommendations on common bond (area of operation) and proposals for banking and other matters. Surveys and public meetings followed in New Quay and Ballindereen, and later, affiliation and registration were completed. A 15-person Board of Directors and three Supervisors were elected and after 42 study group meetings Kinvara and District Credit Union Ltd. opened its doors to the public on 14 February 1992. Kinvara Community Council '...gladly gave the use of the meeting room and kitchen' for Credit Union business on Friday and Saturday nights'.

The disused 'laundry room' became available for a rent of 50p per week and this was refurbished by Community Council FÁS workers, with the cost of materials paid by the Credit Union. As membership grew the inadequacy of the 'laundry room' became apparent and negotiations commenced with

Kinvara Community Council with a view to obtaining a site in the Community Centre grounds. These ran into legal difficulties, but in 2001 a derelict building in the centre of the village was purchased. Construction commenced in 2002 and was completed within budget in 2003.

The founding members were Michael Organ, Breda Kilkelly, Paul O'Connor, Maureen Heffernan, Peter Greene, Mary O'Shaughnessy, Don Devaney, V. Rev. Michael Canon O'Connor R.I.P., Micheál MacMahon, Seán Shannon, Philip O'Connor, Toddie Byrne R.I.P., Brendan Leech, Sheila Conneely, Paddy Geraghty R.I.P., Patrick Kavanagh, Stan Mac Eoin.

MEETING COMMUNITY NEEDS

Savings and loans are the main services provided, but money transfer, foreign exchange and PayPoint (for bill paying) are also available. The Credit Union is not for profit. All surpluses are returned to members as dividends and in interest rebates. At the end of 2007, €108,000 was distributed in this manner. The Credit Union has assisted many community initiatives, as well as supporting ILCU promotions such as the children's Art Competition, school table quizzes, etc. Some community groups have received sponsorship, but the most significant help given has been the special low-rate loans (5.5%) for community groups in Ballyvaughan, New Quay, Kinvara, and Ballindereen.

GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

Growth and development have been constant. At its first Annual General Meeting in 1992 the membership was 238. It now exceeds 2,400.

The Assets now exceed €7.5m, increasing by over €1m annually over the last five years. Shares now stand at over €6.5m. This is over twice the share capital held in 2004, a very positive indication of the continual increasing confidence in the Credit Union. Loans have increased steadily since 1992 (from €23,305) with a particularly sharp increase noticeable since 2001. With the introduction of new lower interest rates (5.5% for secured, student and community group loans and 9%APR for general loans) the loan portfolio now exceeds €4m.

Constant service in changing times Kinvara and District Credit Union strives to provide the best service possible. At its first AGM in 1992 it adopted the Kinvara community motto, "Ar Aghaidh le Chéile", indicating its members' inter-dependence and that 'in unity lies strength'.

SERVICE GETS OFF THE GROUND

Volunteers provided the initial service in Kinvara and in the outlying offices in Ballindereen, Kilcolgan, New Quay and Ballyvaughan. In June 1994, Majella Kenna was employed on a Back-to-Work training scheme and was subsequently offered a full-time position in the newly renovated 'laundry room'. This enabled the directors to arrange normal opening hours in Kinvara. The necessity for some of the outlying offices diminished and they were closed, except for Ballyvaughan. The present workforce consists of two full time staff, Helen O'Connor and Mona Gill, and two part-time assistants, Maureen Heffernan and Maeve O Toole.

Directors are elected at the AGM, usually held in November. They undergo training and serve voluntarily for three years. Three supervisors are

also elected to ensure that members' interests always remain the main priority, and there is further supervision and regulation of the Credit Union's operations by an independent auditor, the Financial Regulator and the Monitoring Department of the Irish League of Credit Unions.

CONCLUSION

Since its foundation, economic conditions have improved, though we may be returning to a time of comparative economic uncertainty. Not everyone has the standard of living that is their right. There are new members of our community and some of other nationalities whom we must embrace in our common bond. We must build on what has been done well up to now. Creative means must be employed to meet targets. More members should become directors and committee members. There must be a dynamism that will ensure constant growth and never allow lethargy to take hold. If you are a member, come to the next AGM. If you have not yet joined, do so and help to ensure a more secure economic future for yourself and everyone else in our communities. Ar Aghaidh le Chéile.

Stan Mac Eoin

Kinvara and District Credit Union Ltd.

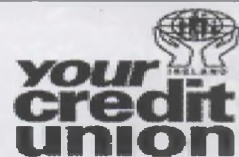
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Committed to providing an effective, supportive and caring service to our community.

If you are a member, visit more often and come to the AGM. If not a member, join right away.

Ar Aghaidh le Chéile



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E-mail:
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Sat. 10.00am - 1.00pm
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Thur. 11.00am - 12.30pm
Closed for Lunch:
1.00pm - 1.30pm:
Tues. Wed. Thurs.
Friday: 1.00pm - 2.00pm:

KINVARA TOWN PLAN

Awards, No Action and Little Relief

Earlier this year Kinvara Community Council received the Irish Planning Institute's top award for 'participatory planning' in recognition of the Community's Integrated Area Plan (IAP). This is the third award the plan has won. But that, unfortunately, is all it has done. Four years on, NONE of its proposals for which the County Council is responsible has been implemented. Meanwhile the local community has *been busy*. The Community Centre has been re-roofed and refurbished and the Childcare Centre is being built by the Community Council with a government grant has started to go up. However Galway County Council has frustrated some other local initiatives. It has refused, for example, permission to hold a Farmers' Market in the Square while its decision to build a Relief Road around Kinvara came as a complete and unwelcome surprise. This was overwhelmingly opposed at a public meeting of over a 100 people in Kinvara. This road, designed 'to relieve traffic congestion in Kinvara' is to be financed by developers. To make it financially viable, they will need to construct upwards of 500 houses that will ring Kinvara with housing estates on land yet to be zoned. There are no provisions either in the County Plan or in the Local Area Plan (LAP) for such a road. The Council appears to have used a proposal for a 'second main street' in the LAP to justify it. This is a shopping street zoned for mixed development in a completely different location. So the proposal is illegitimate and the Council has acted beyond its powers and contravened planning law, in our view.

TRAFFIC JAMS IN KINVARA

It is, in any case, a very expensive way of addressing a problem that hardly exists. 'Traffic jams' in Kinvara seldom cause delays longer than those expected at the traffic lights proposed for the Relief Road. Unregulated car parking rather than through traffic is the core issue here. The document submitted to the Councillors which informed their decision to approve the road included a summary of objections and the planner's response to them. Some submissions weren't included at all. The response to others was based on facts that were incorrect. The rejoinder to the point that there was no provision in the LAP for such a road was to simply state that there was. No traffic survey to establish whether such a road was needed had been conducted before the road was announced. The Council subsequently conducted one on Easter Sunday in the week before the deadline for objections. It showed that the number of vehicles passing through the town was way below the level that you would expect to cause congestion. Interestingly, correspondence between the Council's road engineer and developers obtained under the Freedom of Information act contains assurances that all the land around the road would be zoned residential. Any of this would have given grounds for a judicial

review (it cannot be appealed to An Bord Pleanála) though this would have been very expensive and would have only frustrated the progress of the scheme. The Community Council has been pressing for some time for the 'Traffic Management Survey' proposed in the LAP. Until this survey has been conducted, the bye-laws required to regulate traffic and parking in the town cannot be passed. Nor has there been any progress on another of the LAP's key proposals, the provision of a car park for the town.

THE FARMER'S MARKET

The Council's refusal to grant a license to hold a Farmer's Market in the Town Square for four hours on Fridays was bizarre. The right to trade there goes back to the 15th century and a licensed stallholder has been there for over 40 years. It had widespread local support including that of all the shops and businesses in town with the sole exception of Londis and the local farmer who has access to his land through the Square. The Council took the view that it would constitute a traffic hazard despite the fact that the Square is effectively a cul-de-sac. It suggested holding it on the blind corner outside Connolly's pub opposite the bay. To date, despite numerous representations the matter remains unresolved.

This is not the first time the Council has ignored local opinion. When it published the statutory Local Area Plan (LAP) it refused to adopt the core provision of the Community's IAP, i.e. that the town should not more than double in a decade. In fact, it zoned enough land to quintuple Kinvara's population. Nor did it make Sewerage Treatment a priority, leaving it merely as an aspiration. Since then, the Council seems to have ignored the provisions of its own Plan. It granted planning permission to a major development that was overturned later on appeal by An Bord Pleanála, because they contravene these LAP provisions.

SEWAGE TREATMENT AN EMPTY PROMISE?

Progress on the sewage scheme has been painfully slow. After the Department of the Environment had taken three years to approve the scheme, its construction became the responsibility of the Council in December 2006. Since then it has continued to fall behind schedule for no apparent good reason. Only last July we were told that the date for construction had been put back a further year to sometime in 2010/11. Throughout the decade, sewage treatment has always been and continues to be 'just two years' away!

It would appear that Galway County Council, by financing and commissioning the Integrated Area Plan, may appear to be involving the Kinvara community in planning and other decisions that will determine our future. In reality, they have done nothing of the sort and, arguably, the exact opposite.

Richard Broad

Will the Real Ireland Please STAND UP?

On 18 May, 2008, the Sunday Travel Section of The New York Times had an article by Dan Barry, a regular visitor to Kinvara since the 1970s with roots in the Gort area. He finds a certain spirit of the real Ireland in Connolly's, and I agree. Much of the article (see also: kinvara.com) deals with the changes wrought upon Ireland by the emergence of the Celtic Tiger and the resultant prosperity, which shows itself mostly in the rampant development of the countryside.

My view is slightly different. The "real" Ireland is everything contained on the island, for better or worse. Clearly, the interests of residents and tourists are not always the same and cannot always be reconciled. But, because there are tens of millions of Irish descendants in the Diaspora, Ireland continues to have an irresistible drawing power upon us, so tourism will always be important to Ireland. While no one would expect Ireland and the Irish to remain in some sort of quaint century-old time warp, it is incumbent on the Irish as a nation and a people to preserve that which is truly important to our common heritage.

For me, as a regular visitor to Kinvara, the unreal is the sort of thing that is an affront to tradition and seems designed for the sole purpose of trapping tourists. Bunnratty Folk Park, for me, represents the unfortunate Disneyfication of history and culture. I also find Doolin to be part of the unreal Ireland. The place has been turned over almost completely to the tourists. While it does provide employment for local musicians, it offers little otherwise. Now I may step on a toe or two, but Ballyvaughan teeters on the brink of unreality. Most of the housing stock is of the holiday variety. There's so little of the truly local left that the place virtually shuts down after September.

WHAT IS REAL?

The roof on Corcomroe Abbey is real, as it was necessary for the preservation of the place, even though it looks odd in photographs. The Burren Centre in Kilfenora is real insofar as it provides instruction about the Burren. The gift shop, well . . . And one can learn far more about the famine in the museum in the old church in Corofin than in the Famine Park in The North, providing that one can read.

As for Kinvara, Mrs. Brogan no longer sits at her window, watching a world that changed more in her lifetime than today's children will ever be able to imagine; may she rest in peace. Winkle's/The Crane is gone, but our shopping needs will be much better served. The planned bypass is unwanted. There's still no sewage treatment plant. And the McManor houses keep on abuilding.

In our prosperity, we hasten to knock down or deface that which has defined us. The Irish people are a resilient lot, so they will survive whatever comes, and they are as much or more a part of the "real Ireland" as the landscape. But the landscape needs the help of the people. And help to protect it from the people if it is to remain a place that we all can love. That same New York Times, in an editorial over 40 years ago, said that, ultimately, civilizations will be known not for the monuments that they build, but for those they destroy.

Kim Rigney



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30 Growing OLDER in Kinvara?

Kinvara Community Council has been focussing on the older population. A committee was set up early in 2008 for people interested in researching the needs of older people and in promoting activities for them based on these needs. Our later years can be a time to reflect and enjoy the fruits of our life. But for many of us a lifetime devoted to work and family can leave us wondering how to occupy our time when we retire.

The death of a partner or friend can result in feelings of loneliness and isolation. The quality of life in our later years depends on many things - our state of health, our activity levels, where we live, our support network, our income, our education levels and our interests. It is very important for older people to have good friendships and interests to sustain their emotional and physical wellbeing. We are conscious of the changing nature of our community. For example, as newcomers grow older, they may not have the same family support structures that others in the community might have and some children may lack the richness of contact with the older generation.

At the start the committee acknowledged that we needed to have information on who are the older members of our community and where they live. Some research was undertaken by a member of the group as part of her study at NUI Galway. This has enabled us to hear directly from some older people about what they wish to see available in the community.

KEEPING IN TOUCH

The aim of the committee is to create opportunities for older people in our community to connect with each other on a regular basis. This could be for social and recreational reasons or with a particular activity or pursuit in mind. We have benefited from the wisdom of those who have been involved in the Kinvara Social Services group over many years.

At our early meetings, we felt that a comfortable and central venue where people could meet was important. Venues might include the Merriman Hotel, the Community Centre or the front rooms of the old Convent Building (which needs some refurbishment). Pension day might be a good time of the week to hold an event. Transport would be necessary.

The committee will look at different ways and initiatives for involving older people in various activities, depending on the level of interest. These include: a drop in centre offering tea and company; a tea dance; an active retirement group; a storytelling group; the creation of a volunteer bank to do "odd jobs" for older people; a community alert pendant and alarms scheme; activities that will connect younger people with older people; information on entitlements, health and social services etc. The committee needs to begin to apply for grants so that we can fund some of these ideas. It was felt that a local database for people over the age of 65 would be useful.

A FOCUSED RESPONSE

The committee is planning to focus on one or two areas initially and to grow this in a gradual way. All of us, young and old, have different interests in life. Only by asking older people what they want, what are their interest, can we get a better picture of their needs. Obviously not all older people will be interested but some will be. Let's start small and see what happens.

We are also looking for others to join the committee. If you have some time to give, you will be most welcome. We would also welcome financial donations. We are now planning some events. Can you help us?

Paul Tierney, Coordinator 087 1330336

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THE EUROPEAN CONNECTION

Most people would be very familiar with the Kinvara Local Area Plan for which accolades and awards have been received. The Plan emerged from a pilot project developed by Galway County Council after the introduction of the Local Government Planning and Development Act of 2000. This legislation placed a requirement on Planning Authorities to produce local area plans with greater public involvement and input. Kinvara and Eyrecourt were chosen as the pilots and the Tipperary Institute were engaged to assist in the work. The principle was that local people would have effective involvement during all stages of the planning process and have a say in relation to the quality, nature and location of development for their area.

An international dimension to the initiative was developed, based on representation from Galway County Council, Tipperary Institute, Kinvara and Eyrecourt and LEADER (Galway Rural Development Company). Representatives from other Leader partners in Europe and communities in Sweden, Denmark and Netherlands came together to share knowledge and transfer experiences that would assist village development in each country.

Each partner hosted a visit to address the issues in each community. The first of those visits took place in the village of Bentelo in the Netherlands and the second in Vara, Sweden. Interestingly, no one from Kinvara was invited to either of those meetings! In September 2007, Ireland hosted all partners in Kinvara to address the key Irish issues and to invite responses from the visiting communities. We met villagers from the communities and from the village of Branderup in Denmark who were to host the meeting after us. Liz Murphy gave a presentation of the experience of the Kinvara Steering Group in the Local Area



Plan process. She outlined the hard work accomplished by those involved in trying to encapsulate the vision of the community: the many meetings, talks, the submissions from the sub groups, interest groups and individuals and the launch of the Kinvara Integrated Area Plan in 2003.

LOCAL AREA PLAN

Within one year of its completion, the statutory Local Area Plan was produced by Galway County Council. Although this was seen in many respects as a validation of the IAP process and of the partnership with Galway County Council a number of issues concerned Kinvara Community Council: the consolidation of the town centre was not given precedence over the development of other parts of the town, the inclusion of a brand new street in the statutory plan and the rezoning of lands for residential purposes to a magnitude that would increase the size of Kinvara to well over five times its size. The other major issue remaining was

the implementation of the Plan and in particular the development of a new sewerage system. The Plan remained just that - a plan.

The feedback from the European partners on this issue had one theme: Implementation of the plan was vital and funding must be sourced by the local community in order to meet the objectives of the Plan if credibility in the process was to be maintained. There was an agreement that unless some successes are scored early in this process the Plan could be lost. However, given the existing legislative framework in Ireland, unless and until tertiary government is established we may have to wait a few decades before the Kinvara Local Area Plan is implemented. As one representative from Kinvara put it "The County Council initiated the village development project but no budget was set aside to implement the plan. Therefore the document lost its value and the community its heart." In Sweden, for example, where we were subsequently

represented by Liz Murphy and Kilian Kenny in January 2008, we learnt that each municipality employ full-time staff to source, apply for and use funding.

If Kinvara had paid staff and proper resources for local projects we would not be forever dependent on lobbying national government and the local authority for everything from street lighting to adequate sewerage works. In Branderup, Denmark, where I represented Kinvara in the autumn of 2007, similar parallels can be drawn. Communities are closer to their representatives in the municipalities. Although they had to compete with similar sized villages for funding for similar

projects, they do not have the arduous task of having to go to local authorities and ultimately national government. In Bentelo, the Netherlands, a number of municipalities came together to access Leader funding and achieve local development. Both in Branderup and Bentelo voluntary activity in the form of voluntary manpower hours was rewarded by matching funding for materials and expert paid help by the local municipality. In both cases state of the art community centres housing restaurants, cafés, sports halls, activity rooms for young and old were built.

The fact that all the villages we visited dealt with only the one

municipality also caused projects to be fast tracked. Our experience in Kinvara has shown that lack of linkages between different departments in the County Council has resulted in impediments to most of the projects we have tried to prioritise. All our European counterparts were amazed at the lack of tertiary government in Ireland as they all have political systems which provide for national, provincial and municipal governments. It is a highly developed type of democracy from which we could learn but which would necessitate an Irish constitutional change. We might be in for a long wait!

Matti Twomey

Proposal to create **BAY WALK**

The bay side of the existing low wall between Dungaure Castle and the slipway at Kinvara Quay is the proposed location for this essential safe walkway (Slí Slán), to overcome the present dangers experienced when using the footpath on the N67. A coastal walkway was envisaged in the town plan. In 2003 this community-based development plan was accepted for implementation by Kinvara Community Council and then incorporated into the Local Area plan 2005 to 2011 by Galway County Council. The Council in turn provided grant funding to conduct a feasibility study for the "Baywalk", now underway.

The area is a designated special area of conservation with two recorded monuments therefore any proposed work would be sensitive to the environment and developments should preserve essential elements. Engineering consultants Roughan and O'Donovan were engaged to assist in the task. This company is known for the bridge over the river Boyne and the Sutton to Sandycove Promenade and Cycleway. They are aware of the standards required by the National Parks and Wildlife Services and other environmental considerations.

A LEISURE AMENITY

With the help of local experts studies on terrestrial and marine ecology are being carried out together with reports on bird life in the bay. The Gort River runs underground into Kinvara Bay and may be seen at low tide gushing in channels on the shore. Studies on hydrology and coastal protection are key to this project. Another aspect under investigation is land ownership and future management and maintenance of the walk. Much of the development would require a foreshore license from the Department of

Agriculture and Fisheries. This is just a taste of the issues that must be addressed while planning the walkway.

From a creative viewpoint, the walkway is not only a functional path but also a leisure amenity to improve recreational opportunities for both young and old, locals, visitors and tourists. It will be a place to meet and greet, a place to watch the sun go down on Galway bay, a place to learn about the wildlife in Kinvara Bay.

Planned properly, it will protect wildlife, essential vegetation and archaeological structures thereby educating the public of the natural wealth and beauty in Kinvara Bay. There might also be opportunities for creative art along the way since our starting point has the "bean cheoil" mosaic to lead us on.

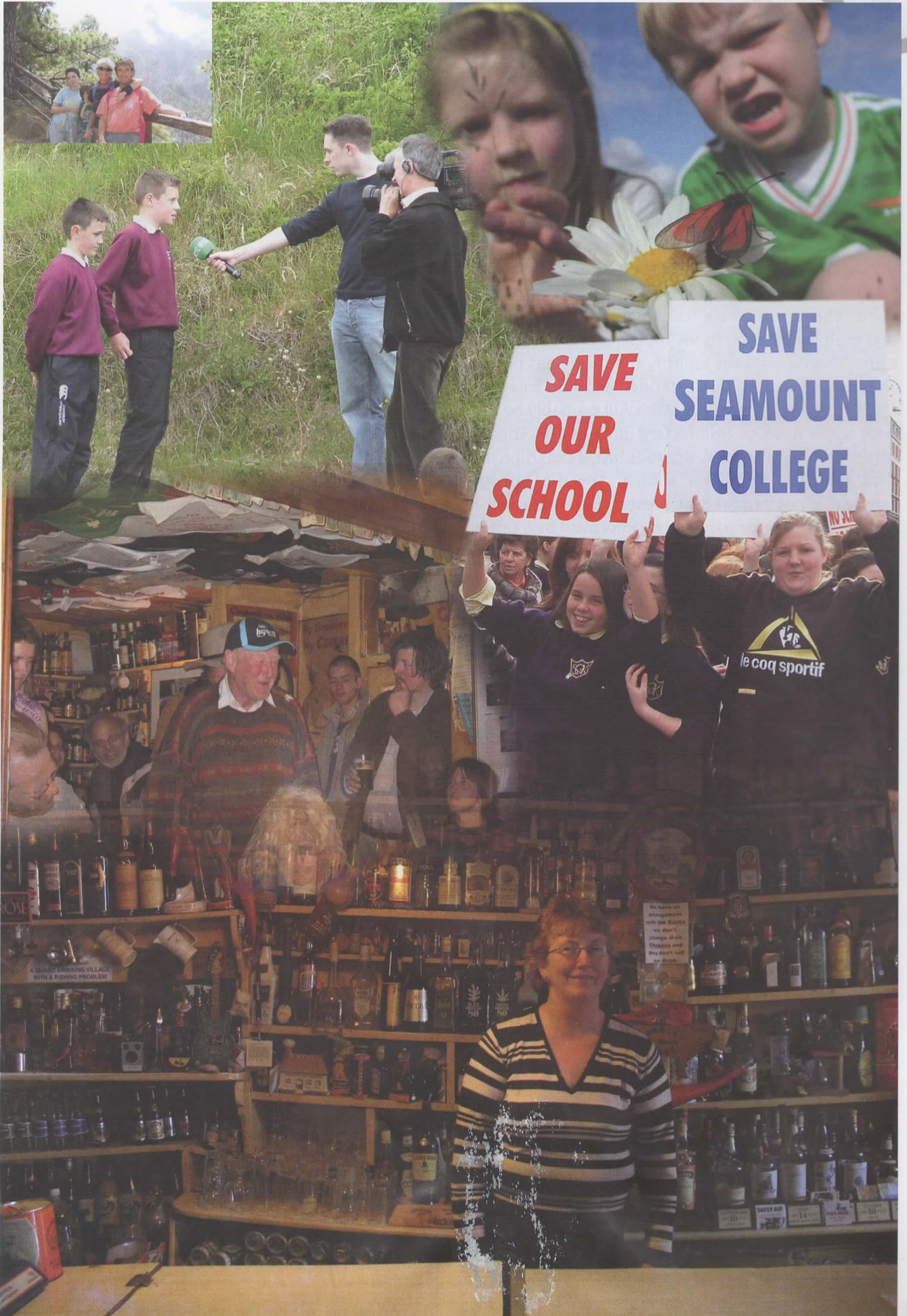
It's a great idea but can we make it a reality? Rome was not built in a day and Kinvara Baywalk may take some time too. If you want to help or feel you can contribute in any way contact lizmurphy@kinvara.com

Liz Murphy



Part of the proposed walkway. Photo: Ger Ryan.





Pollution in Kinvara Bay

The two main sources of pollution into Kinvara Bay are town sewage and effluent from the Coole River that meets the sea underground at Dunguaire Castle.

In July, Galway County Council appointed Ryan Hanley Engineers to contract the new sewage treatment plant. This is a DBO contract (design, build, operate) and their role will be to set the performance standard rather than specifically identify the treatment process. They have indicated that extended aeration treatment followed by a settlement system will probably be used with some form of disinfectant such as UV. This will effectively remove the dangerous faecal pollution load into the bay from this source. Specific nitrogen removal is not required at present but there will be provision for performance to be improved by a tertiary system at a later stage.

EFFLUENT STREAMS INTO KINVARA BAY

Septic tank contribution from the surrounding hinterland could be significant due to the density of dwelling houses with conventional septic tank systems, improperly installed percolation areas, on poor soil, overlying weathered, fissured, clean limestone bedrock. (See image below susceptible flow pathways). Farm run-off is being largely controlled by the CAP and cross-compliance measures for subsidies. Farm practice has improved but the amount of artificial fertiliser spread is still unknown. Disused landfills at Gort and Kinvara are on the path of the underground river system and no testing for leachate in the river system has been undertaken.

SUSCEPTIBLE FLOW PATHWAYS

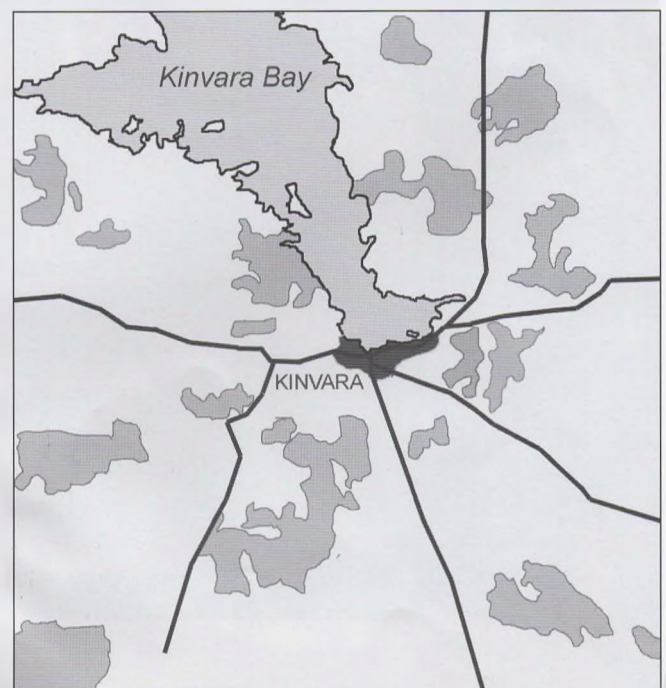
The Water Framework Directive (EC Directive 2000/60/EC) aims to identify and manage river catchment basins to control pollution of surface and ground water. The river catchment basin that involves Kinvara reaches from Lough Rea in the East to Ballyvaughan in the West and from Adrahan in the North to Gort in the South. (see map below) Tracer dyes were used by the Geological survey of Ireland (www.gsi.ie) to mark the path of the underground river draining the hills of Derrybrien and the area around Gort, directly via Coole Lough to Kinvara Bay. Approximately 561,600m³ per day of fresh water is issuing into the bay. This is a contribution of approximately a tenth of the total capacity of the bay every day. The Environmental Protection Agency's map

(not displayed) shows the area encompassing Kinvara Bay as dark purple, indicating it is 'possibly at risk of not achieving good status.' The lilac colour indicates the ground water is 'at risk of not achieving good status.'

The Western River Basin District Programme, under the Water Framework Directive is implementing a strategy, The 'On Site Waste Water Treatment Systems' programme to control diffuse sources of pollution into ground and surface water. The land area is being categorised into a risk matrix dependant on factors such as aquifers, vulnerability, subsoil and hydraulic pathway. Pathogens and Phosphorus are being scored against these matrices. Housing in the high risk areas will be subject to inspection of waste water treatment systems and will be obliged to upgrade if deemed unsuitable (www.westernrbd.ie). This programme will eventually eliminate the effluent stream from the unsewered population. Under the Water Framework Directive, the public must be consulted and supplied with information at certain stages of the programme. The publication of the draft report was due in June 2008 and the public will have an opportunity to comment on it.

It would be of benefit to Kinvara to have a local representative on the advisory council.

Mary Bermingham Dip. Poll. Con.



Swimming and Water Safety

In 2009, Kinvara Swimming Club will celebrate 40 years unbroken swimming and lifesaving instruction. Since its inception, at least two classes were taught weekly, with as many as six weekly sessions in some years, including adults and Toddler and Parent classes.

At present, there is a swimming class on Saturday mornings and a lifesaving class in the afternoon, from September to May. During the summer months some of the instructors spend a week teaching swimming and lifesaving in areas which have no ready access to swimming pools. In 2008 they included Loughrea, Inis Meáin and Inis Oírr, while lifeguards trained in Kilcornan were on duty throughout the summer in Traught, Galway and at Loughrea Lake.

All the qualified instructors and assistants give of their time and expertise to voluntarily teach the essential life skill of swimming, while the lifesaving classes (under the auspices of Irish Water Safety) attract 70 swimmers from throughout South Galway.

As some qualified instructors get older and near retirement, and others move away from the area to pursue their life's goals elsewhere, it is vital that 'new' volunteers come forward to replace them. The Club runs courses every year aimed at Lifesavers of Rescue 4 standard, primary school teachers and parents to qualify them in the skills of teaching swimming.

For more information, visit www.iws.ie and <http://Kinvara-ws.com>



Christmas swim 2007. Photo: Ger Ryan.

An tAmhrán Beo 20 years

The An tAmhrán Beo sean-nós and traditional singing night took place in Johnson's Hostel in Kinvara on Saturday on 15 August, during the Cruinniú na mBád festival. This annual event contributes to the cultural element of the Cruinniú na mBád festival, with singing in Irish and in English, and with traditional music.

This was a special night as we celebrated our 20th year. During that time we have been privileged to hear some of the national masters of traditional song. The standard of guest singing was excellent again this year, with singers hailing from Connemara, Clare and Kinvara. To mark the anniversary, An tAmhrán Beo hosted a very lively display of sean-nós dancing by children and adult dancers. The event is sponsored by Kinvara Credit Union, Foras na Gaeilge, Údarás na Gaeltachta and Murphys

An tAmhrán Beo is now well established as an important event on the calendar for traditional singers and for those who enjoy singing at the session afterwards or simply listening. Cas amach é!



Máirtín Jaimsie Ó Fatharta agus Breda Joyce ag an gceolchoirm. Griangraif: Ger Ryan.

Hidden Landscapes

Kinvara is a cluster of pretty houses on the coast where five roads, from Galway, Ardrahan, Gort, Kilmacduagh and Ballyvaughan converge. For the most part, the roadside scenery is pasture, some hazel wood and the Burren in the distance; the scenery marred or enhanced by a steadily growing number of modern houses.

Long ago, when roads were fewer and footpaths commoner, people coming to Kinvara might have had a different sense of place. Travelling slowly they would have been (to judge from the ordnance survey maps of 1839) surrounded by an almost treeless country, with small areas of carefully worked fields separated by huge tracts of unenclosed flat or rolling heath land. Only within a mile of the town would they journey through a landscape of intensively worked and enclosed countryside with stone walls and possibly hawthorn and ash hedges. An oasis of farmed land set in a Burren-like limestone wilderness. Some idea of this landscape can be seen in the last photo of Caoilte Breatnach and Anne Korff's book on Kinvara.

You might think that this wilderness landscape has long vanished due to agricultural improvement. Access to the internet would hint at other possibilities. Go to www.npws.ie/en/MapsData/ and browse the wonderful set of aerial photos, which cover the entire state. The photos of Kinvara show that between the five principal roads that run into the town, there still remain large areas of unenclosed limestone grassland, exposed rock and heath. Other areas of former heath

have now changed to hazel scrub, but a substantial part of the pre-famine open ground that surrounded Kinvara apparently still persists, separated from the modern roads by only a few fields.

LIMESTONE OUTCROPS

During the last few years I have tried to visit these tracts of land by walking cross country or using old and half forgotten tracks and pathways. Starting in the northeast, large areas of limestone outcrop and grassland lie north of the road to Tarrea Pier. Crossing the Kilcolgan road, an even larger area occurs in Tooreen West, called Poorman's Hill on the O.S. Map. This stretches almost to Ballyclery and immediately to the south of Ballyclery another great extent of pavement, moraine and boulders stretches south to the Ardrahan road in the townland of Cartron. Across the Ardrahan road, a fair part of Loughcurra North is also unenclosed rock, pasture and pavement. South of Loughcurra, in Cahercon, a wonderful area of heath and limestone extends nearly to the Kilmacduagh road. Crossing this road into Carrowkilleen and Cloonnasee, well over a kilometer of limestone country extends north towards Kinvara and west to the Moy road. North of Trellick, a comparable area occupies much of Carrownamadra. Finally, large tracts also occur on the west shore of Kinvara Bay at Crushoa and Mountscribe.

For many, this great belt of country that surrounds Kinvara is probably dismissed as wasteland or at best,



around KINVARA

as poor unrewarding pasture and it is difficult to see an agricultural future for it while the very absence of roads makes its development for housing unlikely. Aldo Leopold, the American ecologist, observed in his classic book *A Sand County Almanac* that farmland is good in proportion to the poverty of its flora. A hedge to hedge monoculture of rye grass may mean money in the bank. It also means that the only wild flowers Irish children will see are on TV. Unless of course they leave the road and walk through Cahercon or Cartron or Carrownamadra. There they will see a huge part of Ireland's flora, orchids, burnet rose, gentians, dog daisies, violets, heather, Bloody Cranesbill, and some very rare plants as well-Bearberry, Dropwort, Mountain Avens and Maidenhair fern. Hares are abundant, lizards slither off sun baked rocks (well, not in 2008). Stonechats, snipe, pheasant and the now scarce Yellowhammer all occur there. Wild goats come and go and the elusive pine marten leaves his signs. Deep caves surrounded by the now rare native elm and yew occur in Carrowkilleen. Doubtless bats also occur there. In short, these open tracts of pavement, moraine and poor grassland are a very rich refuge for wildlife.

ANCIENT FIELD WALLS

It might be thought that such infertile areas have never been farmed intensively, but why then do the remains of ancient field walls traverse many of these heaths and indeed why do old ringforts occur? One

possibility is that these places had thin soil, easily cleared of trees and bushes so this limestone outcrop may have been the first ground to be farmed. But endless cropping resulted in soil erosion and exhaustion and they were abandoned in favour of the deeper boulder clays around Kinvara.

Whatever their history, these open areas have immense potential both for wildlife, ecotourism and walking. With the agreement of landowners, it would be possible to lay out a 15 km cross country path that would ring Kinvara and pass for the most part through limestone heath, pavement and rocky glacial moraine. The wildlife, especially the flora, would rival if not surpass that of any other walk in Ireland. The hard dry limestone ground would be infinitely more pleasant than the boggy wet paths of much of the WeSt The scenery of wide flat open spaces stretching to the edge of the Burren would be memorably distinctive.

In short, Kinvara has the possibility to create (or perhaps recreate) a different aspect of itself. An aspect that would enrich the lives of those who live here, greatly strengthen the town's attractiveness for tourists and make a big contribution towards conservation of our very unusual limestone flora and fauna. Best of all, walking these empty limestone wildernesses would show that there is more to Kinvara scenery than what can be seen through the car window.

Kilian Roden



St Coman's

CHURCH

Kinvara's St Coman's Church is known locally as the 'hidden church' because it is tucked away behind the houses and shops around the corner of the main street and the quays with no public right of access. As a result, both the Church and its graveyard, forgotten and neglected, have fallen into decay.

However, over the past four years, thanks to local initiative and Heritage Council funding, plans for its conservation are now under consideration. A dedicated team of volunteers coordinated by Marion Coady cleared its grounds and made a record of 108 of its graves. After careful cleaning, these were mapped, photographed and their inscriptions noted. This record and survey work by professionals has been presented to the Heritage Council.

Some of the adjoining gardens have been extended over the graves and access problems have led to some gravestones not being recorded. There is an interesting wall to the south of the church entirely constructed of gravestones but this unfortunately was in the area that could not be investigated.

MEDIEVAL AND MODERN GRAVES

Outside the church the graves date to the 18th and 19th centuries as do the majority inside, though four are likely to be medieval. There were none from the 20th century, despite the local folklore that the last interment was in the 1930s. When the dense ivy on the gables was cut back in 2004 it revealed a loss of mortar and structural instability. In the summer of 2007, stones fell from the east gable onto the graves below and access to the interior of the church is now restricted.

Conservation specialists have expressed concerns about the lack of support for the arch over the lancet window of the south wall. On the other side of the church the alcove already formed by weakened masonry has put pressure on the surrounding stones and cracked them. So the building is under threat and a conservation programme is urgent.

In 1839, a report found the Church 'in very good preservation'. The First Edition OS map (1837) shows that there was access to the doorway in the south wall but the Second Edition (1897-1913) reveals that it had been blocked by building over the graveyard

along Main Street. This had given rise to public health concerns in the mid-1800s.

In 1866, Fr. Francis Arthur PP wrote to the Chairman of the Gort Union, Lord Gough, about the fierce opposition to a plan to close the graveyard. Burials continued here into the 20th century. A 1930s photograph shows the church in ruin but with no ivy or trees overhanging.

The origins of the church are obscure. Dedicated to an Early Medieval saint, St Coman, the Archaeological Survey of Ireland describes it as medieval. There are no extant remains or any conclusive record of the original church. However, The Voyage of Uí Chorra, reputed to date to the eleventh century, describes the destruction of the church of the holy old man Coman of Kinvara and the death of a cleric in 814 (Ailbhe of Kinvara) appears in the Annals of the Four Masters.

CHURCH REBUILT IN 1200S

The current building dates from the early 13th century and was substantially rebuilt in the late 15th – early 16th century. The lancet window in the east gable, with its delicate diagonal tooling, the dates, some of the quoin stones, the remains of the lancet window in the south wall and the traces of masonry found in the Church's lowest courses are ca. 1200. The east window is in the distinctive style that flourished west of the Shannon just before the arrival of the Normans. The bolder rough sparrow pecking seen on the later twin-light and the round headed doorway window in the south wall date from the late 15th or early 16th century. The masonry is typical of this later period too.

The presence of a gallery is indicated by rough putlog holes in the walls adjoining the western gable. This suggests it was built around the turn of the 17th century. Why the east window was blocked up is not clear. This would have made the church very dark, as would the curious lack of windows in the north wall. An interesting feature is the incised 'graffiti'. An elfin face with pointed headgear appears to be an attempt to lampoon the Normans. A later second complete figure in the reveal of window in the south wall has similar headgear. The initials WQ were noted in both locations.



Three Generations: Cathal, Oscar and Michael. Connolly's Pub celebrated its centenary last October. Photo: Rosaleen Daly.

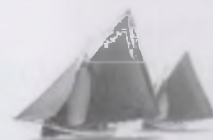


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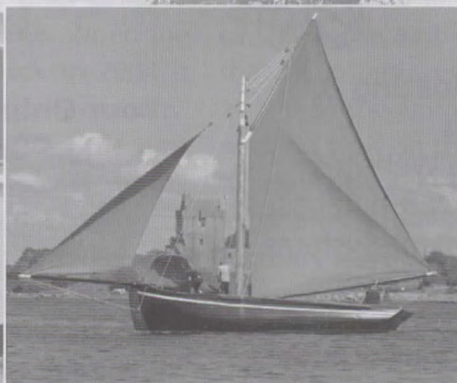
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Meitheal na mBádóirí renovates

The Meitheal na mBádóirí boatbuilding group was established in Autumn 2006 to build traditional timber boats in Kinvara under the supervision of a traditional boat builder, Jim Horgan of Na Forbacha, Conamara. Two clinker-built boats were constructed over the winter of '06-07 and are now a familiar sight in the harbour.

Last winter ('07-'08), a second project got under way – the restoration of a púcán. The púcán was built in 1919 on Mason Island at Carna, by Martin Casey for his cousin Bartley Mhaircísín, who worked the boat for 66 years until his death in 1985. It was built of pitch pine, deck cargo on a wartime Canadian boat which was probably scuttled in heavy seas and washed up in Galway. The pitch pine was cut into planks using a pit saw on the island. The ribs were of oak timber bought for 19 shillings in Galway.

The boat always carried the traditional Púcán rigging and was regarded as the best of its size in Carna. It could deliver nearly 3 tons of seaweed by oar and had a capacity of 1 ½ tons under sail. It was the fastest boat of its size and very well thought of in the area.

The restoration has involved: (1) replacement of two of the ribs in their entirety and part of a third; (2) replacement of the boat's seat; (3) replacement of some short sections of planking; (4) a replacement rudder; (5) caulking; (6) tarring, and (7) re-rigging.

This does not seem like a lot but much of the work was slow and laborious. In particular, the replacement ribs involved endless shaping to get a replacement that matched the shape of the boat. The new seat is critical as it is more than a seat; it has a structural function in bracing the two sides of the boat and also supports the mast. The position of the mast was somewhat altered. A replacement rudder, tiller and mounting were provided. An old tiller was obtained but a completely new, replacement rudder was made using the old one as a template. The old one was much too rotten to reuse. The iron mounting for the rudder also had to be replaced.

The project is being carried out by Vincent Kelly, Stephen Dowds and Dave Stokes, again with great

help and advice from Jim Horgan. The work took a little longer than originally expected but the boat has finally made it to the harbour.

The planks shrink on a wooden boat that has been out of the water for some time. No matter how good the caulking and waterproofing, there will be some leaking. The extent can only be known when the boat is back in the water. There was a lot and more work was required to get it sailing. It is now much better than it was but further work is ongoing.

We wanted the boat to have its original name, given to us as "Cabair Fhia"; meaning 'deer's antlers'. However, we have some doubts about this. We can find no reference to "cabair" in the dictionaries and the usual word for an antler is "beann" so some more research is needed.

Very many thanks to Jim Horgan for his endless time, patience and expertise, to the Heritage Council for their grant aid and to Specials Engineering for new mountings of the rudder.

Stephen Dowds



What is it about Cruinniú na mBád?

What is it about Cruinniú na mBád? In every part of Ireland people raise their eyebrows and smile mysteriously when you mention it. What is its essential allure and why has it endured so long? From Waterford to West Donegal when you mention Kinvara, people immediately enquire about the Cruinniú.

Without any support from Tourism Agencies or Government Departments, the Cruinniú has insinuated itself into the consciousness of the Nation. It is a major landmark in our cultural and heritage landscape and recognised as such universally. The Cruinniú provides the motif around which Kinvara can grow in a way that is stylistically consistent, attractive, prosperous and sustainable.

So how did a small village festival achieve such high regard? Firstly, the Cruinniú is authentic. Unlike many events promoted throughout the summer, it celebrates something that is real and beautiful. Based on the sea and the harbour, it is central to what Kinvara was designed to be from its very inception. It has a truth and an historical identity, not just for Kinvara but for the Nation as a whole.

But it is more than that! The Cruinniú celebrates a living tradition which is central to the culture of Connemara. The turf boat revival has contributed hugely to a growing self-confidence in Connemara and the Islands. This confidence is

reflected in Broadcasting, Software development, Literature and the Arts in an area that 30 years ago was considered to be in its death throes. More than any similar event, the Cruinniú has brought the beauty of the boats, as well as the skills and character of the boatmen, to a national audience. This, in turn, provided a standard for craftsmanship, design and excellence which is intrinsic to Ireland and inspirational in itself.

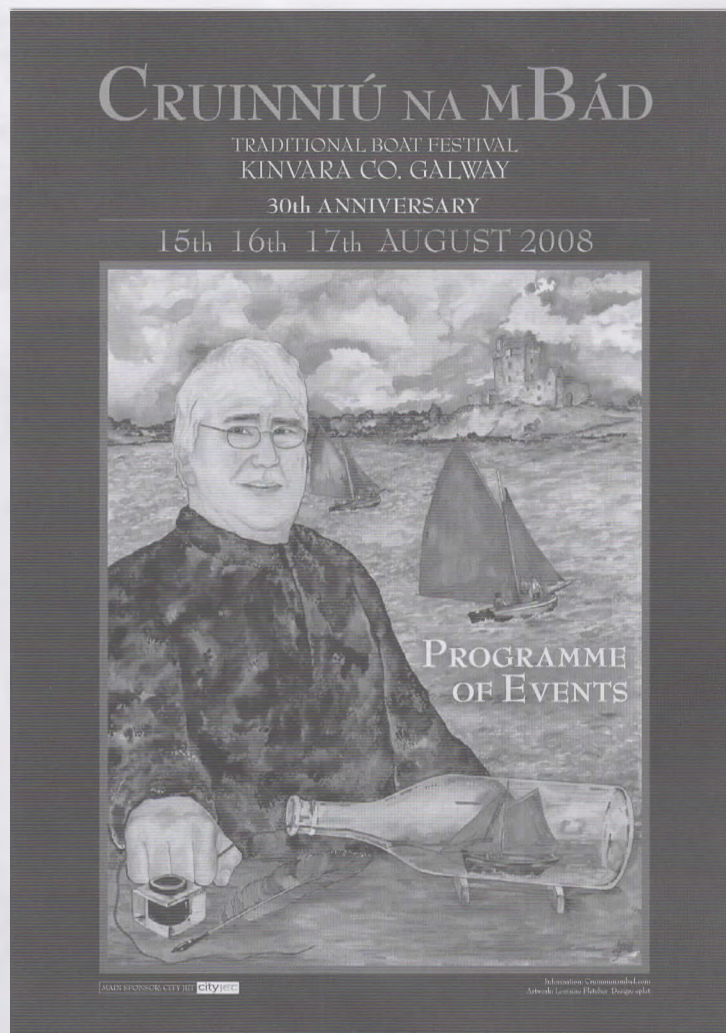
AN ENJOYABLE EXPERIENCE

And even more than that it is a wonderfully enjoyable experience. From the spectacle of the

boats, to the diversity of the crowd, to the music and all night parties by the turf fires, the Cruinniú has an anarchic quality that is excitement personified. The Cruinniú, of course, is a richly layered work of art imbued with dramatic tension and a kind of raw, briny sensuality. The artist behind this complex but eminently satisfying work is Anthony Moylan. Having created the Cruinniú from his imagination 30 years ago, this redoubtable character has dominated the event since. As variable, unpredictable,

rambunctious and elegant as his creation, Moylan's daunting presence on the Quay during the Cruinniú is an event in itself.

Quite simply, he has put Kinvara on the map. The



village stands apart from hundreds like it along the western seaboard. After 30 years it is time for the town to fully adopt Moylan's vision of a town dedicated to Maritime Heritage. This unitary strategy will ensure that the town develops in a coherent, consistent and sustainable way while preserving its unique character and beauty. A development plan, building on the existing infrastructure of the harbour and featuring timber boats and sail with facilities to examine, research

and restore such vessels will make Kinvara a singular tourism destination in its own right, not just for the three days in August but throughout the whole year.

Such a focused development path will pay greater long-term dividends than a continuous accretion of bland housing estates and shopping facilities which will only serve to make another Galway suburb out of a promising and attractive heritage location.

Gerry Conneely

Cruinniú na mBád 30 years on

On a wet August evening in 1978, the old Turfboats sailed back into Kinvara from Connemara, after their absence since the late 1950s. People lined the Quay in the rain, to witness what was to be part of the Galway Hooker revival. Some of the older people cried on the shore, seeing "the brown boats stealing through the misty haze" once again. The old connection between the "Bádóirí" of Connemara and the people of Kinvara was re-established.

That was the first Cruinniú na mBád, and it was the brainchild and dream of Tony Moylan, who featured on our 2008 poster. Few believed they would ever see the old boats return to Kinvara, but Tony persisted in persuading the Bádóirí "back west" to sail to Kinvara once more with their hookers laden with turf.

Cruinniú na mBád has become one of Ireland's most important Festivals, but more significantly, after 30 years, it continues to play a huge part in the revival of traditional sailing, boatbuilding etc. Boatbuilding classes held locally have resulted in many new boats in the bay. Kinvara has one of the finest fleets, not only of traditional craft, but of all types of boats, and it's great to see the youngsters getting the experience with the Heron fleet. To keep the sail making tradition alive, Cruinniú is having a full suit of Calico sails made each year, a tradition kept by the Bailey family.

RACES DEFERRED

Because of the foul weather on the Sunday, the Hooker, Leathbhád and Gleoteoig races were deferred to the Tuesday evening. The sailing was great in a light-hearted atmosphere. The highlight surely was the Hooker Calico race, when the three old hookers approached the mark off the Pier.

The Cruinniú is very much a community event, with the people of Tracht, Parkmore, Crushoa and

Kinvara providing food and hospitality for the hungry crews throughout the weekend. Without the loyalty and commitment of the boat owners, skippers, and crews who have been supporting Kinvara for the past 30 years, Cruinniú could not have continued. All those who have helped to keep the Cruinniú going over the past 30 years, too many to mention, are to be congratulated. A special thanks to all of our sponsors and especially to our main sponsor, Cityjet.

Another great friend of Cruinniú, Bádóir Pat Jennings, passed away at his home in Long Walk Galway, at the end of August '08. Deireadh ré. Ní bheidh a leithéid ann arís.

Michael Brogan



The Morning Star; 2007. Photo: Ger Ryan.

Delamain LODGE

The revocation of the Edict of Nantes in 1685, originally promulgated by Henry IV of France in 1598 allowing the French Protestants freedom of conscience, led to a mass exodus of the Huguenots, many of them coming to Ireland, some as officers and serving soldiers in the army of William of Orange.

However, Nicholas Delamain (1) was not one of these penniless refugees. He came to England in 1625 as Chief Attendant to Henrietta Maria, the youngest daughter of Henry IV, who became Charles I's wife that same year. Remaining in London after the marriage, he became a favourite of George Villiers, Duke of Buckingham. In 1639 he was knighted and made a Farmer General of the Kingdom of Ireland, marrying a Miss Lascelles, one of the Queen's Ladies-in-Waiting.

Their son, Nicholas (II), owned property in Kilkenny and Dublin, including a merchant's business in Stonebeater (Stoneybatter) Street that issued its own coinage. He married a Miss Butler, of Castle Crine, near Sixmilebridge, Co. Clare, a relative of James, Duke of Ormond. Their eldest son was Henry (I), who was appointed Controller of the Duke of Ormond's household during the period he was Viceroy of Ireland. His wife was a daughter of Dr. Bond of Kilkenny, the Duke's physician.

Henry (II), their son, was born in Kilkenny January 6th, 1687/8 but seems to have been raised in Dublin, where his family moved when he was four years old. His wife was Sarah, or Mary, Steele, daughter of the Deputy Clerk of the Council. Miss Steele was the first cousin of the famous 18th century essayist, Sir Richard Steele, and a niece of the Countess of Derby (the Stanleys, Earls of Derby, were Royalists during the Civil War).

CONNECTED THROUGH MARRIAGE

According to a MS history of the Cooper family, to which the Delamains were connected through marriage, Henry (II) and his wife "were 60 years married, had 27 children and grandchildren, and great-grandchildren innumerable". Henry (II) died at 'The Barn', a house on the Kildare estate of the Connollys of Castletown, the home of his son-in-law, Joseph Cooper (married to Henry's daughter, Hannah) on December 1st, 1780, at the age of 93 years. He and his wife, who had died some years earlier at the age of 80, were buried in Leixlip.

Henry (II) Delamain, in addition to his daughter, Hannah, had four sons Henry, John, Robert, and William. His eldest son and heir, Henry (III), born in 1713, became a Captain in the service of Maurice, Prince of Saxe Gotha, the natural son of Augustus, Elector of Saxony and King of Poland. Henry (III) spent twenty years in Europe in the army of Saxe Gotha and was one of the most outstanding military tacticians of his age, who died in 1750, having attained the supreme position under the king of Marshall-General of France.

Returning to Dublin, Henry (III), purchased, before 1753, the delftware factory of Davis & Co on the North Strand, which he turned into the most successful Irish delftware business in Ireland. All that is known of his wife is her first name, Ziporah, and the fact that the marriage was not a success. Henry (III) proceeded to take as his mistress, Mary Bijar, and two children - Henry (IV) and Mary - were born to the couple. When Henry (III) died on January 10th, 1757, his two children were still minors, and Mary Bijar, took over the delftware business until her own death three years later in March 1760.

According to M. Alain Braastad-Delamain, of Delamain and Co., a descendent of William Delamain's son, James, who established the family's cognac business in the 18th century, an old document in his possession states that William Delamain, born c 1720, held "a gentle employ in Dublin Castle for 30 years at His Majesty's service, where he filled the role of Marshall of Dublin". After the death of Mary Bijar, he took over the running of his brother's delftware business, in partnership with Samuel Wilkinson, but ceased trading in 1769, when the business was rented to the workmen, probably due to lack of capital.

MARRIAGE OF CAPTAIN DELAMAIN

William, who was known as 'Captain' Delamain, married, as his first wife, Hannah O'Shaughnessy, daughter of Roger O'Shaughnessy of Gort, by whom he had a son, James. After her death, he married Mary Ackland, daughter of Major Dudley Ackland, by whom he had another son, William, and two daughters, Jane and Sarah.

It was his son by Hannah O'Shaughnessy, James Delamain, born in 1738 in Dublin, who was the first of

Delamain Lodge, the attractive 18th century house to the north of the town of Kinvara, overlooking Kinvara Bay, takes its name from the Huguenot family of Delamain, whose close association with Ireland began with Nicholas Delamain, a member of the Court of Henry IV of France in the early decades of the 17th century.

the Delamains to enter the wine and brandy trade, establishing his business in Dublin, which was an important centre for the trade throughout the 18th century. In 1760, at the age of 20 years, James moved to Jarnac, in the Cognac region of France, and married, in 1762, Marie Ranson, only daughter of Jean Isaac Ranson, a prominent brandy merchant, with whom he went into partnership. Within a short time, the firm of Ranson & Delamain became the most successful brandy business in Cognac.

There he entertained at his splendid home members of the other successful brandy merchants, such as the Saule and Hennessy families, and he was also on friendly terms with the numerous Catholic Irish merchants in the Cognac region and in Bordeaux. It is very possible James Delamain could have been acquainted with James French of Doorus and Bartholomew de Basterot.

Meanwhile, James's father, William, remained in Ireland for another 20 years and we must assume that it was during these years that he occupied, at least for some of the time, the house that to this day bears the name of Delamain. In 1788, however, he left Ireland to live with his son in Jarnac, where he died on July 3rd 1793. Apart from the name of the house, and his marriage to Hannah O'Shaughnessy, daughter of one of the most prominent old Irish families in South Galway, the other piece of 'evidence' connected with the Delamain family in Kinvara unfortunately no longer exists, having been demolished in 1971, to make way for an ill-fated housing scheme that accomplished little more than needlessly destroying a unique fragment of Kinvara history.

What was destroyed was a small building, with a cut and dressed stone doorway, about nine feet in height, surmounted by a three foot window described as 'gothic' in one contemporary newspaper, and 'obviously a church window' in another, that stood behind what is now the Pierhead Restaurant. The most intriguing feature of the building was an inscription cut into the stone above the window that read '1782'. For years while the building stood undisturbed but gradually falling into ruin it was referred to as the 'French chapel'. However, some of the older residents of Kinvara called it, instead, the 'Huguenot chapel'. When we recall that the Delamain family was of

Huguenot descent, this second description is seen to have preserved, in the complete absence of any other documentation known at that time, the memory of this unique and hitherto unrecorded presence in Kinvara in the middle of the 18th century.

DELAMAIN SOLD BY AUCTION

Evidence of the end of the Delamain connection with Kinvara is found in the Connaught Journal of March 25th, 1793 in which an auction notice appears headed 'Delamain Lodge in Kinvara' that reads, in part: "To be sold by auction on Thursday the 4th of April a house pleasantly situated within a few yards west of Kinvara, with stabling for four horses and other offices. The house consists of two parlours...a hall...four bedchambers, two rooms for servants, with kitchen, pantry, dairy cellar and scullery. The house being furnished in the best manner, with grates and other fixtures, must make it a desirable situation for a water lodge, there being a bathing house and strand close to the gate entering the lawn...it has the further advantage of having a complete quay...where fuel can be landed..."

Delamain Lodge was a substantial but hardly elegant house, resembling more the residence of a 'strong farmer' than a member of the gentry. It had a thatched roof until this was replaced with a slated roof in the second decade of the 20th century. It is not known who occupied it during the first half of the 19th century. It was acquired by Henry Comerford after 1850, and his daughter and her husband, Isaac Daly, lived here for at least a few years during the 1870s.

Sometime after 1880 it was leased by the Diocese of Galway as a residence for the parish priest and subsequently purchased. It continued to be used for this purpose until the 1970s when the diocese sold it privately to Mr John Lenihan, who ran a restaurant for a few years. The present owner is Dr Robert Brannock of California, who has superbly restored the house, giving it an elegance it probably never had possessed when it was originally built.

I would like to acknowledge the assistance of M. Alain I Braastad-Delamain in providing me with valuable information about his family.

J.W. O'Connell

Delamaine Lodge on a misty day. Photo: Ger Ryan.

New Children's Centre for Kinvara

Construction work commenced in August 2008 on the new Kinvara Community Children's Centre on the grounds of the Community Centre. The children's centre will be a state of the art childcare facility providing quality, affordable, consistent, flexible childcare which is accessible to all children in the community. The service will cater for up to 100 children aged 3 mths-12 years. It will incorporate full day care, part-time care, playschool/Montessori and out of school service. The centre is due to open in June 2009.

A committee of local volunteers was formed in June 2004 and through their dedication and commitment were successful in securing a capital grant of €1.4 million under the National Development Plan (2000-2006).

The Kinvara Community Children's Centre committee would like to thank the Community



Council for their generous donation of the site, and for all their help and guidance in bringing this project to fruition. A special thank you also to the Playschool and St Joseph's National School for their help and assistance.

We would also like to thank the local businesses for their contribution to our fundraising events and to the local community for supporting these events.

For further information, please contact Josephine Byrne on (087) 6488175.

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In 1996 Dave Brocklebank moved to Cappaghmore just outside Kinvara with a vision to set up a purpose-built yoga centre. The magical location of the Burren, and the tranquil feeling one gets from spending time in the hills and by the sea were very influential in how the Burren drew him time and time again to the area, and eventually to realize that this would be the best place for people to come and learn how to practice yoga and meditation.

The Burren Yoga and Meditation Centre runs weekend and weeklong residential retreat holidays all year round. Dave, who married Eri Kawahara from Japan in August 2008, chooses the best yoga teachers from around the world to teach the courses. They include daily outings into the Burren hills and introducing the course participants to such local attractions as St Colman's Well, the Burren Perfumery, the Ailwee caves and the many great restaurants and cafés around New Quay, Kinvara and Ballyvaughan. From May to September, the centre provides evening and morning classes in Yoga and Meditation which are well attended by local people from Kinvara to Ballyvaughan, and Gort to Corrofin, and further afield. More information visit the website www.burrenyoga.com or phone Dave at 091-637680.

2008

DOORUS Orchard Project

How wonderful to see the Galway hookers sailing into Kinvara Bay during the Cruinniú weekend, unloading turf on the pier. But what did these boats bring back to Galway on their return trip in the past? Corn and apples. Kinvara once exported apples to Galway. In fact Ireland once grew thousands of acres of apples. We had all our own varieties which were actually suited to our climate!

The Irish Seed Savers have carefully searched for these relics from the past in corners of fields, on farms, and in hedgerows, and now hold the national living archive of our native Irish apples. They have over a hundred varieties, with 20 acres of orchards and gardens near Scariff in county Clare. And here too in Kinvara we have an orchard of old Irish apples, planted in the walled-in garden at the An Óige Youth Hostel in Doorus.

This project is five years running, and we have received Heritage Council funding twice. We have planted 70 fruit trees, and various soft fruits and vegetable gardens. This community garden project is open to the public all year round. We have picnic tables and mown paths (most of the time!). So if you haven't had a look yet come and bring a picnic; the daffodils are lovely in spring and the apple blossom is exquisite.

RESTORATION OF OLD IRON GATE

The main event for 2007/8 was the restoration of the original old cast iron gate which hangs at the entrance to the walled in garden. With funding from the Heritage Council and a generous donation from An Óige, this 200 year-old gate has been fully restored and re-hung in situ. The trees are now in their third



The Orchard Gate. Photo: Ger Ryan.

year and most have produced an apple or two or three, which is very exciting. We have held several workdays - thanks to everyone who came along - and there will be more! So if you have green fingers or are a frustrated gardener living in an apartment or rented accommodation, why not get involved. Learn a bit of gardening, help this community garden become an asset for Kinvara, a place where the local schools can come and learn about our agricultural heritage and biodiversity and the great outdoors, a tranquil space for a picnic, and a safe haven for our heritage apple varieties.

Lynn O'Keeffe

Kinvara Drama Group – What's been happening

While there is a great tradition of Drama going back to the 1950s and before in Kinvara, the current grouping formed recently in 2006 with an opening performance of John B Keane's 'The Man from Clare'. In October 2007, the group collaborated with the Wild Swan Theatre Company, Gort and Clarinbridge Drama Group to perform three One-Act plays in each locality. The Kinvara Group produced 'Last Tango in Kinvara', a farce by David Tristram, which introduced many new talented direction and acting skills to the group.

It is hoped that this type of collaboration with other groups will result in a high standard of acting and strengthen the amateur dramatic scene in the region. In March 2008, the group took on the challenging play 'Dancing at Lughnasa' by Brian Friel. A young boy tells the

story of growing up in a fatherless home with his unmarried mother and four spinster aunts in 1930s Donegal.

From both a production and acting perspective, the local Kinvara community put a huge effort into Lughnasa, with over 40 people contributing in some way. It was a real community effort and this is what our group is about. We hope to harness this enthusiasm for community drama and to continue staging plays in the future. Producing and performing plays is great fun and brings people together. Anyone interested in joining the group, either on stage or backstage, in exploring and developing their talents should contact us on 086 8245050. We are particularly keen to hear from aspiring producers or directors.

Hayden O'Connell

50 Yacht Khepri

Travel Log 2006-2007
Kinvara to France, Spain
Portugal, Madeira, Canary
Islands, Azores & Back

After much preparation & planning, on the morning of June 15 2006, we depart Kinvara Pier to a fond farewell from family & friends. Declan and Debbie and our two children Saoirse (14) and Donnacha (11), have begun what we hope will be a great adventure on our 38ft sailing boat, Khepri. All preparations are done - house rented, work issues sorted, boat stocked, just to mention a few. Our first stop is Inishmore in the Aran Islands, and we get a chance to test out a few items on the boat on the way, as we had not had any sea trials as such before we left. We have a 7-hour beat out to Inishmore so the new rigging is well tested, along with new radar, and automatic pilot. We decide to spend a few days in Inishmore before really starting into our journey. Mind you, when in the Aran Islands, the weather takes a turn for the worse, with gale force winds - not alone are we unable to continue on our journey, we cannot even get off the boat to go ashore in the dinghy for a couple of days. After 10 days in the Aran Islands the weather does finally improve and we are underway again, and with pleasant sails to Dingle, then Crookhaven in Cork and from there to the Scilly Isles, off Lands End in Cornwall. We spend a few very pleasant days in the Scilly Isles, and promise ourselves that we will return here again. There are beautiful gardens, beaches and anchorages - lots of exploring to be done here. After a few days we leave for France, a trip of just over 100 miles. Because of tides etc., we end up crossing the shipping lanes into the English Channel at night. This is one busy place for shipping. The ships are huge, and the thought of getting run over is a very good incentive for careful navigation. We arrive in L'Aberwrach, Brittany at lunch time on July 6, after a quiet crossing, and tie onto a visitors' mooring and prepare to go ashore. There is a great sense of satisfaction whilst walking the streets, listening to French, taking in the atmosphere, all the time realising that we have got here under our own steam (or should I say sail).

ONWARD JOURNEY

Over the next few weeks, we cruise down through Brittany and some of the offshore islands such as Belle Isle, Ile de Yeu, and finally down to Anglet which is near Biarritz and visit Debbie's sister, husband and their children who live there. From here it is only a 32-mile day sail west to the next harbour and we are now in Spain. It's amazing how different people can be, and the atmosphere here in Guetaria, Spain, is a total contrast to France. The Spanish talk all the time, do not go out to eat until really late, and at that, bring all the family



from babies to grannies & granddads. But there's a great sense of fun about the Spanish. From here we continue along the north coast of Spain, with wonderful green mountainous scenery as a background. Although there are not that many safe harbours / anchorages along this stretch of coast we can still manage day sails from port to port. The weather is mainly kind to us, but sailing here in this part of the Bay of Biscay can be somewhat uncomfortable with confused cross swells and waves. Our first major port of call in north-west Spain, is La Coruña. A famous port and a truly wonderful town! In September we cruise down the coast of Portugal, and it's wonderful to be still experiencing heat and sunshine, although the west coast of Portugal can be very foggy, and most days, sailing here required the use of radar and careful navigation. Northern Portugal in general is quite remote, and some of the towns here

reminded us of Ireland 30 years ago. Once round Cabo San Vicente on the south west of Portugal we are then into the Algarve and the associated tourist areas. Over the past month we have been getting more into routine, with school onboard most mornings for the kids.

A SLOWER PACE

Although we have really enjoyed our journey so far, we feel we are a little overwhelmed with visiting and seeing new places every few days, and we come to the decision that we should stop somewhere for a bit longer, and on October 4, we leave Albufeira bound for Porto Santo in Madeira. This is our longest trip so far, some 500 miles; it will take us about 4 days sailing. We have a new watch system in place, and Saoirse does 2 three-hour watches on her own each day, which is a big responsibility for a 14-year-old. Donnacha is on call 24/7 and reckons he has the most stressful job! The first 24 hours out turns out to be quite windy, with lumpy enough sea conditions. That first night out we take a few waves into the cockpit, but on the plus side we are making great speed, and cover 150 nm in the first noon to noon run. Khepri has what is called "Self Steering", so once we are out, we don't actually have to steer the boat by hand.

The main responsibility for those on watch is to keep an eye out for shipping. On the 3rd day the wind dies away and we end up motoring in mirror calm conditions, with lots of dolphins and turtles to be seen, making a night time landfall at Porto Santo. In the morning we wake up to what looks like a lunar landscape and are very pleased that we have had a successful trouble-free passage. We end up spending 4 weeks in Porto Santo, a lovely little island just 30 miles from the main island of Madeira, which is our next port of call. We hire a car in Madeira, and we are all agreed that the scenery and walking in Madeira is excellent. For more news and pictures, see Khepri's full log on: www.kinvara.com/khepri

Declan Connolly

Primary Schools

SCOIL CHIARÁIN NAOFA, DOORUS N.S.

Scoil Chiaráin Naofa now has three new classes, a staff room, library, two new resource rooms, a reception area and indoor hall. Our outdoor play area is equipped with an enclosed tarmacadam basketball court, hurling/football/soccer pitch, front junior play yard and an additional enclosed Montessori playground. The Montessori attached to our national school operates from 9.20-5 p.m. with two Montessori sessions daily (20 preschoolers attending 9.30-12.30pm and 8 in the afternoon). Some 85 children attend the school and are busily settling into their new surroundings.

During 2007-08, the children enjoyed many successes including participation in the "Burren Beo Project" which involved study of our local and beautiful hinterland of the Burren. We were lucky to be chosen to present our work, reports and obair láimhe on the nightly TG4 News Report. I rith an chláir seo, thaispeánamar ar tionscnaimh is obair láimhe. Bhaineamar a lán taitnimh as an obair seo.

Scoil Chiaráin enjoyed many sporting adventures during the year including Football, Hurling, Basketball, Olympic Handball, Athletics and Soccer. The highlight of our school sporting year was during "sportsweek" when our girls' soccer team emerged as parish/school winners during an enjoyable soccer blitz which was organized in St Joseph's Kinvara.

We enjoyed many other successes including our Write a Book Winners, Aisling Marchant & Kalyey Comyn from 5/6th. The Young Scientists Exhibitor during Science week was Dylan Kelly of 1st class, winner in his age group for penmanship, and 5/6th class were participants in the Kinex Design activities. We also thought of others who are not as fortunate as us and we put some funds together for the Mysthia Gravis Foundation, Mary Keogh's work in Vietnam, and we skipped for "Happy Heart" week. All in all a wonderful year.

Martina Tarpey, principal

ST JOSEPH'S KINVARA

Kinvara NS is a great school. We have fair and very nice teachers. New extensions have been built over the last number of years; a new porch with automatic doors, three new classrooms, two resource rooms, a staff room, a store room and an afterschool care. New facilities are in the school, like a computer room with 36 computers and a sports equipment shed. The Parents' Association organise days like coffee mornings for the Hospice and a jersey day for GOAL. We have received three green flags and are hoping to



St Joseph's celebrates Green Flag. Photo: Ger Ryan.

get a white flag. The school uniforms are a maroon jumper, a white t-shirt and black skirt/trousers for girls or grey/black trousers for boys.

The school has about three acres of land. We have a field, and a basketball court.

Féilim is in our school. He is autistic and he has his own room and laptop. His teachers are Sarah, Ms Fallon and Mrs Murphy. We have a new running track that we usually use before PE. There are also two offices, one for the principal, Mr Ó Gallachóir, and one for Hilary. The library has been extended about three years ago and there is a lot more room.

We have a Camogie/Hurling team and a football team for boys. The girls were unbeatable but the boys were unlucky. This is a great school and I would highly recommend it. The teachers in our school are: Mrs Nolan, Mrs Murray, Ms Ryan, Mrs McGrath, Mrs Purcell, Mrs Murphy, Mrs O'Keefe, Mr Ó Gallachóir, Sarah, Hilary, Bernie and Ms Fallon.

Aisling Gallagher, 6th class

(Thanks also to Niamh McArdle, Niamh McNamara, Eoin Mulligan, Hannah Larissey, and Tori O'Rourke)

NORTHAMPTON NATIONAL SCHOOL

Our new school is very nice. It is a perfect place for learning, though I miss some things about the old school. The teachers and parents worked very hard to get the school nice and ready. Our school has a lovely playground. There is a lot of space in the playground.

It is fun to play in our class room; it is amazing. We have lovely posters up. We are excited to be in an older class. We are working very hard in school. It is very nice to see my friends at school. There is a pre-school and an after-school in our new school. It sounds quite fun. My friends and I like to play "Ice and snow". It is a fun game. On rainy days, my friends and I like to play "Twister". It is fun to watch people struggle to keep balance.

J.J. and Valentino did a great job on the building. I really like the automatic door. Our school is very modern now. It is a very nice school.

Kate Kennedy – 3rd Class

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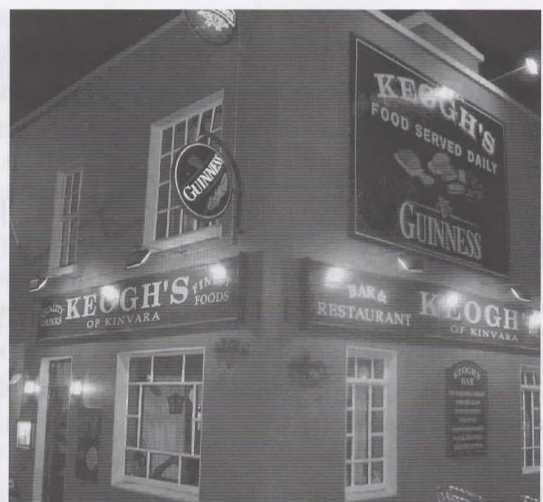
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Development Education in KINVARA

"What are you afraid of?" he asked. "Afraid I might have to change," I answered. "Don't be afraid of change, embrace it" he replied. I was crossing the desert in Turkana, a remote semi-arid expanse in Northern Kenya visiting a mission set up by my travelling companion, the Spanish priest. "Well this place certainly hasn't changed much over the centuries" I thought, looking out the window, over the plains, the nomadic tribes tending their herds of goats among the scrub which looked devoid of nutrition; this, the "cradle of civilisation", the place where both Dr's Leakey found early remains of our human ancestors.

Why was it that I thought that this place might change me and why was that a problem? In Seamount College we started a programme in Development Education in 2007. This covers activities such as a study of the Millennium Development Goals, the 8 goals set down at the Millennium Summit in 2000 to tackle world poverty (<http://www.undp.org/mdg/>), a link with a girls secondary school in Ghana where the students will study areas of similar interest and compare their outcomes and participation in a week-long development education workshop where a work of art which reflects their ideas on a particular issue will be produced.

THINKING BIG

Development Education allows students to "think big", to look at the whole picture. It diminishes the notion of "them and us". It highlights the fact that people are the same the world over. The girls contemporaries in Notre Dame School in Sunyani, Ghana want to do well at school, they want a career, to settle down, to raise a family, to make the most of themselves. Their parents make sacrifices to give their children every opportunity possible to achieve their potential. They worry about the war on terror, the price of oil, what's for dinner. They watch the World Cup, they applaud Olympians.

People are the same. It is our economic differences that set us apart, the state of our governments, the society in which we live, the roles of men and women, the place in which we were born.

Development Education teaches us to respect the sameness in each other and to celebrate the differences. It is not a fund-raising exercise, but an awareness raising exercise. It empowers us to make good decisions, to vote for good governments, to demand equal treatment, to ensure the less well off in our society are looked after.

Crossing the desert in Turkana I discovered that it is natural to be afraid of change. We all seek our comfort zones, friendly faces and familiar places. We resist unlooked for challenges, the unknown. And yet to find happiness and inner contentment, to get to know ourselves we need to embrace new situations, to challenge our beliefs and prejudices and to help those less fortunate when we can. For more information, visit: www.seamountcollege.ie

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Kinvara Hurlers win BRONZE

After a lengthy campaign that took Kinvara all over the country, our U11 Hurlers reached the Mecca that is Mosney, Co. Meath and came home with bronze medals in their pockets. Following in the footsteps of some of Kinvara's greatest athletes, hurlers and Camogie players, this bunch of lads proudly carried the Kinvara, Galway and Connacht flags on the national stage.

Their journey to Mosney began in April, when our first game was against the combination of Claregalway-Lackagh. Kinvara won this game by the margin of one goal, in a tightly contested game in Kinvara. Our next game was the county semi-final. This time we were up against the combination of Loughrea-Leitrim. Again, the Kinvara lads were victorious, but this time it was tighter, with a one point margin. We were now in the county final (the biggest match ever for these young lads).

COUNTY COMMUNITY GAMES FINAL

Kinvara U11 Boys captured the County Community Games Hurling Title in a most exciting and thrilling game held in Ardahan. Probably one of the best second-half performances ever played by a Kinvara hurling team, at juvenile or senior level. Kinvara started off well with Ronan Kilkelly pointing early, and Killimor gave a great display in poaching goals. At half-time, the score was Killimor 4-4 to Kinvara's 2-3.

Kinvara tried hard in the first half but the soft goals scored against them and several missed goal chances made it too difficult. But when the second half came, it was as if the Kinvara lads were possessed. From the first ball they fought and hurled with such tenacity that it was clear they were determined not to let this title slip. An early Ronan Kilkelly goal was quickly matched by one for Killimor. However, another rasper of a goal from Ronan, followed by a point, brought the deficit to three points. Then, one of the turning points. Killimor had a sideline cut 20 yards out. It flew high in and was superbly caught and cleared by goalie Ritchie Mitchell. However, straightaway their midfielder sent in a brilliant shot destined for the



Kinvara U11 Boys' County Community Games Hurling Winners 2007. Back (L-R): Gary Kilkelly, Eoin Whelan, Ollie Niland, Sean Linnane, Ritchie Mitchell, James Cronin-Rodgers, Conor Whelan, James O'Hara, Finn Kearns, Alan Keane Front (L-R): Kevin Roche, Patrick Whelan, Joe Tully, Keelan O'Rourke, Thomas Fordham, Ronan Kilkelly, Dylan MacMahon, Lochlainn McDonald, Alan Linnane, Thomas Kavanagh.

top corner. But out of the blue, Ritchie took off, and leapt into the air, eye on the ball, to make a save that wouldn't be out of place in Croke Park. Killimor got the point, but that was to be their last score. From the puck out, Conor Whelan won possession, sent it in to Ronan Kilkelly, who burst through and found the net. This was followed by the equalising point from Conor Whelan from play. The teams were level. Next came a superb free won by Alan Keane on the sideline. Up stood the one and only Conor Whelan, who from the tightest of angles sent the ball over the black spot and over the bar. Kinvara were leading. Ronan Kilkelly grabbed another goal, and finally got another point. Final score: Kinvara 6-6; Killimor 5-4.

There were jubilant scenes at the final whistle as Kinvara players, supporters, mothers and fathers leapt about and just went pure crazy.

CONNACHT COMMUNITY GAMES FINAL

Next step on the road for Kinvara was the Connacht Final. In this game Kinvara were pitched against Knockcroghery from Co. Roscommon.

After a slow start, Kinvara went into top gear and

at Community Games 2007

overcame the challenge to claim the Connacht Community Games U11 boys hurling title. In doing so they guaranteed their passage to Mosney.

The game was played in Ballyvary, Co. Mayo. Pressure was on, not only to get to Mosney, but also as some mothers had non-refundable deposits for Bettystown! Knockcroghery battled bravely, and were most unfortunate to come across a Kinvara performance in which every player shone.

Kinvara weathered an early onslaught, with centre-back Ollie Niland clearing every ball that came within a sniff of him. Corner back Thomas Kavanagh cleared a Knockcroghery attack, and then Patrick Whelan intercepted another in the other corner. Our backs were now on top, with Gary Kilkelly commanding the full back position. At half-time, Kinvara led by 2-7 to no score. The first-half had plenty of highlights, such as Alan Keane's superb point from over his head. Joey Tully did the impossible and pointed from near the corner flag. Another great point by James O'Hara after a monster of a puck out by Ritchie Mitchell went over the Knockcroghery's half back line. Conor Whelan was pointing for fun, and each point a classic. Two trademark Ronan Kilkelly goals completed a solid first half performance.

The second-half saw more of the same, with goals by Conor Whelan and Ronan Kilkelly. A superb long clearance by James Rodgers saw Ronan Kilkelly catch and send the ball sailing over the bar. Good work by Sean Linnane saw Fionn Kearns blast the ball to the back of the net. Ollie Niland was not to be left out and he popped up for two cracking goals. Substitutes Keelan O'Rourke and Alan Linnane combined nicely, and Alan scored a great goal. Any attack by Knockcroghery was stopped by our half backs, with Thomas Fordham and Dylan MacMahon clearing ball on the run from both sides. Their one chance of a goal towards the end was bravely blocked by sub Eoin Whelan, and up the field again went Kinvara. On the final whistle, the scoreline read Kinvara 9-11, Knockcroghery 0-0.

NATIONAL FINALS IN MOSNEY

August arrived. Looking cool in their new gear, the Kinvara lads arrived by bus in Mosney, and got ready for their All-Ireland semi on Saturday. In this game, we were unlucky to be drawn against the favorites, Middleton from Cork.

The Cork lads started better and soon had a 1-3 lead. But the Kinvara players rallied before half-time and popped over three points. Then came the turning point. Kinvara had a goal disallowed and at half-time, found themselves down four points. In the second half try there was just no beating the Middleton defence. Throwing caution to the wind, Kinvara left themselves open in the backs and eventually lost 1-12 to 1-6. Overall Kinvara had no excuses, as we were beaten by a better Cork team that eventually went on to win Gold in the final by beating Callan from Kilkenny.

Back to the pitch on Sunday to try and win Bronze. Here we were up against Fahan from Donegal. The Kinvara lads were not going to slip up here and eventually ran out easy winners.

On Monday the bus arrived home to bonfires and a large crowd and presentation in the hurling pitch. Although disappointed, the rousing welcome home was great and the lads they felt like heroes. Special thanks to my fellow selectors of Anthony Byrne, Brian O'Driscoll and Enda Linnane. We are grateful to everyone who sponsored the team and all the gear. Special mention to Catherine Kilkelly and Marian Connolly for all their work for Kinvara Community Games and at county level. I would also like to thank all the parents, families and supporters who supported us on our journeys, especially those who travelled to Mosney.

Members of the Kinvara squad: Ronan Kilkelly (Capt), Ritchie Mitchell, Patrick Whelan, Gary Kilkelly, Thomas Kavanagh, Dylan MacMahon, Ollie Niland, Thomas Fordham, Conor Whelan, Sean Linnane, Joey Tully, James Cronin-Rodgers, Alan Keane, James O'Hara, Kevin Roche, Finn Kearns, Alan Linnane, Lochlainn MacDonald, Eoin Whelan and Keelan O'Rourke.

Garret Byrne

Hurling in Kinvara: A PERSPECTIVE

If being successful is determined by winning a County Senior Title, then most clubs in Galway would fail. Six clubs have achieved that accolade in the past 20 years.

So in Pearse Stadium, on 21 October 2007, we had a dream. In the end it turned in to a bad one – Portumna proved awesome and we went home downbeat, but not despondent. On 17 March 2008 we probably felt a little better when we witnessed once again an awesome performance by our conquerors in an All-Ireland final.

The seeds for last year go back a long way: Doorus Schools County Champions 1984; U16 Champions 1999 and 2004; All-Ireland Community Game Champions 2000; County Schools Champions 2001;

U21 A County Champions 2004 (to mention a few). The primary objective of those who give their valuable time to coaching our youngsters is to ensure our players play to their ability, be it in Grade A, B or C. So how did we fare in 2008? * Our Seniors continue their winning ways and as we go to press are in the knockout stages; * Kinvara Juniors reached the Junior Championship Semi-Final, only to be beaten by a strong Athenry team (first Semi-Final appearance, since 1975).

The under-age structure is very strong and highlights this year included our U12s and U14s reaching the latter stages of their respective championships. Recent performances at schools and U12 give us huge confidence for the future.



All action at the County Final. Photo: Ger Ryan.

There are 50 young lads under the age of 10 learning hurling skills.

CLUB OFFICERS IN 2008

Patron: Conor Frank Larkin; Presidents: Kevin Sexton and John O'Connor; Chairman: Joe Byrne; Secretary: Teresa Kavanagh; Treasurer: Garret Byrne.

GREAT PROGRESS

Hurling is what it is all about, but ancillary matters are vital. This year sees the completion of our pitch development. With a €60,000 grant from the Department of Sports we have spent a further €60,000 for an additional practice pitch, running

track, hurling alley, floodlighting, and car parking. The lotto remains our main source of income since 1991. It cost €58,000 to run the club in 2007, excluding capital expenditure. A notable achievement in 2008: five of our players represented Galway on the Senior Championship panel (Shane Kavanagh, Colm Callanan, Ger Mahon, Conor Kavanagh, Alan Leech. Shane Quinn joined Conor and Alan on the U21 team). Keep up to date with all the happenings in Kinvara GAA on www.kinvara.galwaygaa.com

I suppose if we have a theme going forward in the promotion of our games, it is 'Mol an óige agus tiocfaidh sí'. The dream lives on.

Joe Byrne, Chairman Kinvara GAA

Kinvara Camogie Club: 2006-2008

The Kinvara Senior Camogie team compete every year in the Senior County League and Championship. This year the team reached the final in the Senior League and were only narrowly beaten. They are now starting the Championship having reached the Semi-final last year. The Camogie Club needs a constant stream of girls playing at every level in order to keep the Senior team at the standard it is at now. The Chairperson of Kinvara Camogie Club is Helena Huban and she is also the Captain of the Senior team. The secretary is Rachel Curtin and the treasurers are Clare McGinty Ryan and Marian Tannian. The Senior team really appreciate all the hard work put in during the past year by the Management, Michael Helebert, Tom Keane and Marian Tannian.

KEEPING THE TRADITION GOING

Camogie is played at inter-schools level in Seamount College, maintaining an important tradition. Hopefully the girls will continue playing also with the club during term and school holidays.

At under-age level, Camogie Coaching is provided by a group of coaches to girls from schoolgoing age upwards. At present our teams participate in Under-10, U-12, U-13 and U-14 levels in our grades. In 2007, we commenced with Indoor Camogie training and this has been a great success, with the advantage that it encourages young girls to start camogie who might not always enjoy the inclement outdoors!

Sports for girls always need the support of the players, their parents, and supporters, to ensure their active survival and we appreciate all those who show an active interest.



Senior Camogie Team 2008. Photo: Ger Ryan.

INAUGURAL Kinvara Road Hurling Competition

Sunday 22nd June 2008 will be remembered as the day that Kinvara held its first Road Hurling Competition. The brainchild of Garret Byrne, Michael Bermingham and Seán O'Hanrahan, this novel event was very successful, with teams from all over Galway competing. Road hurling is a cross between road bowling and the long puck competitions. Teams of three take alternative shots to hit a ball round a three mile course, and the team who hits the least number of shots is the winner. In Kinvara's case, we were fortunate to have a course with everything – sharp bends, hills, slopes, straight stretches, bumps and lumps. That's right – the road from Cahermore to Kinvara!

The competition itself was open to all adult hurling clubs in Co. Galway, with the winner to be declared the Road Hurling Kings of County Galway. There was also an Open Competition that featured a few local camogie teams and some local celebrity teams. The event kicked off at 12 noon when club presidents Kevin Sexton and John O'Connor struck the first sliotar of the inaugural event down the road in Cahermore. First out of the traps were Liam Mellows, and they became early leaders with 70 shots. However that did not last long as Turloughmore arrived in ten minutes later with 68 shots. This lead lasted for a while, until Tommie Larkins arrived home with 65 shots. All teams were on the course at this stage, and Ardrahan took the lead with a superb score of 61 shots. As half way scores starting coming in for the remaining teams, it looked like only two teams had a chance of beating Ardrahan – and that was Abbeyknockmoy and local team, Kinvara.

KINVARA TAKES THE LEAD

The Kinvara lads next appeared on the final stretch and eventually hit the ball over the line for their 60th shot, much to the delight of the large home crowd. Abbeyknockmoy had a bit of difficulty on the last hill as their sliotar rolled back and they lost ground. However, they did come in with 62 shots, which was enough to capture third place. In the Open Competition, the winners were Tí Uí Chonghaile, who had the best score of 63 shots.

The organising committee would like to thank all the clubs that entered this competition, all the marshalls, stewards and everyone that made this day a success. It is hoped that more clubs will come to Kinvara next year and enter, as the most enjoyable aspect of the event was the mixing of players from clubs from all over county Galway.

CLUB COMPETITION RESULTS:

1st: Kinvara (David Huban, Dara Smith & Conor Kavanagh) 60 shots,

2nd: Ardrahan (Joe O'Leary, Davy Kennedy & Richie Mullins) 61 shots,

3rd: Abbeyknockmoy (Michael Coleman, Declan Molloy & Brian Cooley) 62 shots.

Others: Tommie Larkins, Kilbeacanty, Ballindereen, Gort, Turloughmore, St Thomas's, Salthill, Loughrea, Clarinbridge, Liam Mellows, Leitrim-Kilnadeema, Portumna, Maree-Oranmore, Pádraig Pearse's and Castlegar.

OPEN COMPETITION RESULTS:

1st: Tí Uí Chonghaile (Colm Callanan, Ciaran Callanan & Iarla Tannian) 63 shots,

2nd: Loughrea 2 (Keith Haverty, Michael Haverty and Greg Kennedy) 64 shots,

3rd: Kinvara Camogie 1 (Karen Huban, Aoife Tannian & Lorraine Linnane) 66 shots.

Others: Sextons Pub (Pat Nolan, Kevin Sexton & Frank Quinn), Gort Juniors, Kinvara Juniors (Ger O'Connor, Gary Kavanagh & Mike McCormack) and Kinvara Camogie 2 (Rachel Curtin, Helena Huban & Veronica Curtin).



Road Hurling Winners 2008. David Huban, Dara Smith & Conor Kavanagh. Photo: Ger Ryan.

Profile: Liadáin O'Donovan

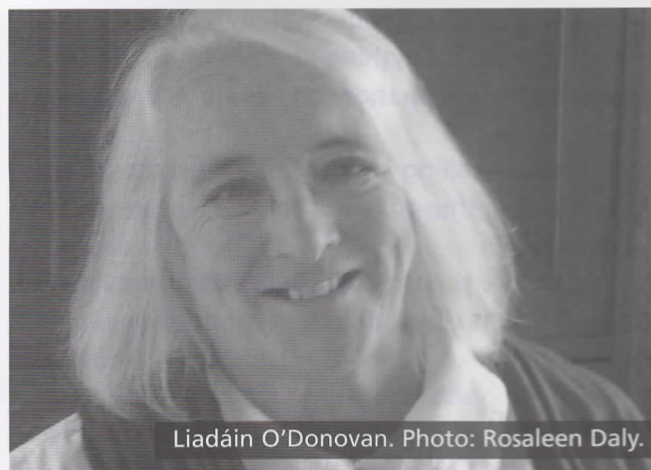
I grew up in Sandymount, Dublin, and lived there until I was about 10. It was not a very conventional family: I have two full brothers, four half-brothers, and a much younger half-sister. At that time Sandymount was a lovely place to be raised, it was a quiet place where as children you could wander; the strand was across the street, the Martello tower up the road where we got ice creams during the summer and the village was only a few minutes away. My mother was an actress in the Gate Theatre and my father was the writer, Frank O'Connor. His real name was Michael O'Donovan but for his work he used a pen name. He was not a favourite of the Church or State: he was banned for his stories which were considered indecent, and for his translation of *Cúirt an Mheán Oíche* and other Irish poetry.

I realise I have rather idealised my childhood. I remember we were always told to be quiet so my father could work during the mornings but in the afternoons he would take us for a walk into Dublin. He would encourage us to skip and he would skip along with us, just to get us to move and not to dawdle. We nearly always went to a bookshop and to Bewleys, a book and a bun, very simple, very nice. My father was an only child in a very poor family. He left school when he was 12 or 13, so it seems extraordinary to me that he taught at both Harvard University and Stanford. When I was 16 I went to America to join the family, my father was now in the U.S., my mother in Canada.

DUBLIN TO NEW YORK

Coming from Dublin, New York was a very heady place indeed. I remember walking down 5th Avenue saying 'hello' to everyone, the way you would have in Dublin, and my father having to explain to me that you couldn't do that in New York, it could be misconstrued! New York was an exciting place for a teenager, lots of music, lots going on. I remember Liam Clancy asking my father to play *Cúchulainn* in a reading of three Yeats plays and Dad explaining he was too old to play *Cúchulainn* but that he would be glad to help in any way he could. Liam used to come to the flat and sit with Dad; I remember he always drank milk. Through Liam and his brothers I got to hear a lot of music, Bob Dylan, Odetta, Joan Baez, many, many wonderful musicians; there seemed to be music everywhere.

Later, in my 20s, I went to San Francisco. I met my husband, Gordon Cook, an artist, at a party I gave every year for my son. The street we lived on was very



Liadáin O'Donovan. Photo: Rosaleen Daly.

small, so we would close it off, fill the street with straw, decorate it with flags and bunting and have an old fashioned street party with bobbing apples, street games, and of course lots of music. Gordon came with a friend of his to one of these parties and within a week he asked me to marry him. I did. I just knew I would never find his like again. We were only married for eight years when he died. But he left us some wonderful memories and some beautiful art. There is an exhibition of his work every year or two, with one in San Francisco in 2009, and a small museum show in 2010. My two children Michael and Kate live in New York and Washington, D.C. Michael is a lawyer and married to Eleni and they have a daughter, my first grandchild, Niamh. Kate is an artist and during the year I was in New York where she had her first exhibition. It was very exciting.

On the death of my husband and with two children going off to university, I came home to live in Ireland. I had never intended to stay away that long. I am very fond of my cottage and the village. I think the way the village pulled together to come up with the Town Plan was fantastic; there were so many different and complicated issues. But I am very saddened, no, I should say angered, at the way the planners seem to pay absolutely no heed to the provisions of the Town Plan. Their failure to provide a sewage treatment plant, their refusal to grant permission to hold a market in the Town Square and their sudden announcement of an expensive and unasked-for Inner Relief Road, are hard to understand. To open up a new road at the castle, one of the most photographed spots in the country, and a place that already has traffic problems, seems so irresponsible and infuriating!

In conversation with Rosaleen Daly

ENOUGH

Just enough chemo to see you through the holidays.
 If your hair falls out, it isn't a bother if you rather wear a wig to warm your skull. It isn't a bother if you can't wear anything at all. It isn't a bother if your ribs begin to show on the surface of your skin
 you're simply falling into earth and becoming too thin. Too thin to hold the skies, there's just enough
 chemo to lose the shadows beneath your eyes.

Alex Venegas

**THE STOOLS AT "TEACH COLL"
MAGHERAROATY**

The old stools creaking at the bar
 Have felt many a leg and foot
 Across their fettled struts and spars,
 Now worn, and to wafer thinness cut.

The oak has yielded up its' grain
 To fishermen and a farmer's feet,
 Fresh from boat and bog to meet
 Friends fresh from spray and rain.

Down from Cnoc Fola's doughty slopes,
 And from the shore they came,
 And on their nobbled hobnailed boots,
 Still clung the sand and grain.

And yet they still maintain
 A rugged rickety strength,
 As do the old men they support
 And have for many years at length.

When their legs were young and strong,
 Roundly they voiced the views of the day.
 Whether the treaty was right or wrong,
 Whether to emigrate or stay,

Rocked and scraped with the passions of men,
 As they held them in their prime.
 Past voices raised, then dimmed with drink,
 They lived through their place in time.

They'll take the axe now, very soon,
 Their worn spindles reduced to make
 A kindling to warm new men at the bar,
 Who's soft shoes no replacement will rake.

Brian Wynne

THE SNOWDROP

Shivering and shaking like a tiny trembling pup,
 the breeze passes by and you lift your white head
 up.

With a ring of green around your face
 like a tiy elfin cup,
 collecting dew-drops each new morning
 for baby lady-birds to sup.

Christine Croke

WHEN THE FLAMES DIE DOWN

When the flames die down and the fire is lit
 You can sit and bask in the warmth of it
 Just close your eyes let your thoughts run free
 You know that this warmth is just you and me
 And the fires that took us long ago
 Are now a gentle burning glow
 No need for words it has all been said
 You are still with me as I look ahead
 Down life's rocky road we have made our way
 For mistakes I made I have had to pay
 And through it all there by my side
 The girl who said she'd be my bride
 would life without you when I grow old
 Mean that my fire had now gone cold
 Or would these memories my comfort be
 Will these embers still glow for you and me
 And as our lives move towards their dawn
 It takes so little to keep us warm
 A tender touch, a gentle kiss
 Is all we need to nurture this
 When the flames die down and the embers glow
 I pray that you will always know
 I love you...yes...I love you true
 And my embers glow for only you.

Dave Hogan

GLOW

is it any wonder cities always
 feel so haunted?
 With no real darkness for us ever
 to be ghosts in
 to whirl in
 to scream in
 we have to do all our dancing
 in the light,
 cradled in the gravity of others'
 eyes.

David Rock

IN MEMORY OF CHRISTY HENNESSY

A TROUBADOUR

WHO

HELPED MANY TO

SOAR

AND 'BECOME' NEW.

HIS MUSIC

AND SONGS WERE

THE TRICK,

SO FULL OF LOVELY

MELODIES AND LICKS.

HELPED MANY TO GET TO

THEIR "SPACE OF PEACE"

I HOPE HE MADE IT ALL

THE WAY

AT THE TIE OF HIS RELEASE

AND DEPARTURE,

(THAT'S FOR SURE)

THANK YOU

FOR THE LOVELY SONGS

THEY MADE ME FEEL NEW,

HEY -

THEY

WILL LAST LONG,

THAT IS THE POWER OF

A GOOD SONG...

Joe Staunton

CALLUM ON CROAGH PATRICK

New feet on the Mountain,
fourteen years on.

The then unborn child

keeps one step ahead

to witness a river

flowing both uphill and down

in the steady click of sticks

and shuffle of stones

And we are one with the stream

heads bowed in study

of the next footfall to place

and aching breath to draw

My eyes give way to his

As he takes in the timeless scene

My voice an answering echo

to his mounting thoughts

My energy a mere rein

for his unravelling enthusiasm

as he rises to consciousness

taking over the lead

in pilgrimage passed on.

Roger Phillimore

MADWOMAN ON A DITCH

Who, who, who do I think I am?

And me, and me marching

the three miles between two villages.

The like, the like o' me,

with not a mode of transport,

a mortgage or a credit card to my insolvent name.

In this soul-deprived realm

of concrete, cars and credit-ratings,

I am a non-entity

blinded in the blaze of fast lane fury.

Counter revolutionary clad in light reflector -

madwoman on a ditch -

a most unlikely conscientious objector.

Trish Casey

Book Clubs in Kinvara

There are actually eight book clubs thriving in the Kinvara area. Two were formed in the last year and another is active for thirteen years. The remaining clubs fall somewhere in the middle. We asked all of these clubs to recommend their favourite 10 books and the following list of books turned up in common.

Title	Author
The Kite Runner	Khaled Hosseini
Half a Yellow Sun	Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
The Dancer	Colm McCann
Atonement	Ian McEwan
The Red Tent	Anita Diamant
The Shipping News	Annie Proulx
The Poisonwood Bible	Barbara Kingsolver
The Secret Life of Bees	Sue Monk Kidd
A Long Long Way	Sebastian Barry
True Lives	Vikram Seth

Highly recommended were:

The Lovely Bones	Alice Sebold
The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas	John Boyne
Shadow of the Wind	Carlos Ruis Zafon
On Chesil Beach	Ian McEwan
Out Stealing Horses	Per Peterson

Collated by Mary Uí Eochaidh and Maria Hanigan

Profile: John ffrench

I came to Kinvara over 25 years ago. I always saw myself as a Galway man although I was living over in America and was looking for a 'connection' with Galway again. My sister Ellie in Ardrahan sent us a picture of the Quinn's house (Mícheál Ó Cuinn) in Doorus and we bought it unseen. This had been the Quinns family home. There were four girls one of whom was Bridie Quinn-Conroy who wrote Not a Word of a Lie. The house had been sold originally to a Professor Rose who subsequently moved back to Belgium and that's how we came to acquire it. Since then we have lived here every year for the summer.

The local people used to call this the Clare house, I hadn't thought about the colours but I had blue on the windows and a bright yellow on the roof. When I first put it on, our neighbour Sullivan came down and said to me "I'm sure that's just an undercoat."

McInerney, the farmer up the road to whom I had asked for some hay for my sister's donkey said to me "Of course you can have it but on one condition; for the love of God would you change the colour on that roof!" Now it's caught on and many people have the bright yellows.

I am not a direct relation to the ffrenchs in Doorus but a distant relative married the de Basterots there. I was actually

born in Dublin and then brought up in Castlefrench, near Ahascragh, Ballinasloe. My mother was Italian and my father Irish. I went to boarding school in Ampleforth College in Yorkshire with the Benedictines. That was where I got my first introduction to art. I subsequently went to the College of Art and Design in Kildare Street, Dublin and studied under Maud McGonagle, Sean Keating and Andrew C. Charles. I was really interested in ceramics but they did not teach it then. I had cousins in Florence and they had a good school there where they taught ceramics so off I went for four years to study pottery and ceramics and then worked there in a studio. After that I moved to India for a few years to work with potters.

RETURN TO IRELAND

I came back to Ireland at the time when the government was trying to revive the cottage and craft industry. There was no real design tradition at that time and I think Peter Brennan of the Ring Studio was about the only potter in Ireland then. I got a job in Arklow Studio Pottery which was separate from Arklow Pottery. I used to go down to the Kilkenny Design Centre and there were artists from all over

Europe there and the place was flourishing. We would make prototypes for the main Arklow Studio free of charge but they weren't having any of it. My ideas were off the wall to them. They were used to making ordinary tableware and had very fixed ideas of what they wanted. I had no encouragement for what I was doing, it was a constant battle. Eventually of course they folded, sold everything off to a Japanese company. The machines were shipped off to Sri Lanka where the labour was cheaper and all the Irish workers were out of a job. It had employed over 600 people and had been the main artery of employment. They stood no chance against similar goods coming in once protective tariffs on imports were removed. Having said that, they had both fantastic equipment and unbelievable craftsmen like the engravers.

The vivid colours I have I developed myself. I am told I

brought colour to ceramics in Ireland but I am not conscious of that. I just use my glazes and underglazes. The ceramics in Ireland before me were probably more influenced by the browns in Oriental pottery. This summer I've had an exhibition in Kilkenny and in Kinsale. I also have some pieces in the Norman Villas Gallery in Salthill. I work every day in my studio during the summer here. I am inspired by where I live, the landscape



and rocks and flowers. The Burren has deep soul for me. We go on the coast road and stop and look around. The left hand side is a tapestry of flowers and the right hand side is all meadows full of wild flowers. In the Burren you have to bend and look into the crevices. I get great ideas and although they don't transfer directly into my pieces they have a huge influence on my work. I haven't painted in a long time but I do some collages. My wife Primm is the painter.

My favourite artists would be Miro, Picasso, Braque and all the impressionists. The contemporary Irish painters that I like are Brian Bourke, John Behan, Jay Murphy. In Kinvara itself I am fond of the work of Rita Wobbe, Manus Walsh in Ballyvaughan and Jim McKee in Bell Harbour. There is a young potter in Oranmore, Helen Barry, whom I think is doing great work. I also have to mention the beautiful work of the ceramist Diane Reid in Kinvara. There is also Sinead O'Connell. They are making remarkable things now and hopefully will be well known in the future. We love the music in Kinvara as well. At the end of the summer we pack up and move back to our house in America. But of course next summer we will be back as we have for the last 25 years!

In conversation with Matti Twomey

Anne Vesey

Anne Vesey, a motherly figure in Kinvara playschool for 26 years, has now taken up another position. We wish her well in her new job at Kilcolgan Educate Together School.

Anne has part-reared almost every child in the village during that time and everyone has fond memories of her, as parents or as children who attended the playschool. She was extremely welcoming to all concerned, accommodating to those in a spot of difficulty and very understanding of tardy pick-ups! She managed the playschool for many years both efficiently and successfully, as proved by the long waiting lists for the service.

Kinvara Community Playgroup was set up by parents in 1979, and Anne joined in 1982. Her own children were at the National school, and she took on the position of playleader for the afternoon session, managing eight children on her own. The job was poorly paid from the fees charged to parents plus a small Health Board grant. Now the playschool has about 20 children, morning and afternoon, with two staff for each session. Anne was very instrumental in the success of this playschool.

FOCUS ON FREE PLAY

A playgroup session has a strong focus on free play and is regarded as the most appropriate way for children to learn at this young age, as they learn to interact with each other, and gain communication skills. This community-run service is open to everyone, regardless of their ability to pay the fees. Anne always felt very strongly about this, and hopes that this inclusiveness will continue.

As a Special Needs Assistant in her new school, Anne is helping a boy very close to her heart. The job also leaves her more time for herself and for her other new role as grandmother. She loves her new job, and finds the two teachers there very supportive, and the children wonderful.

Anne was very sad to leave Kinvara Community Playgroup after so many years, and was amazed at the turnout of grateful parents who came to say goodbye on her last Friday afternoon. She had a great send-off with champagne and flowers. Anne thanked the parents of all the children she cared for down through the years, and had fond memories of

the various staff who worked with her, Áine O'Connell, Jean Greene, Anne McInerney, and Deirdre Flanagan.

The new playleader is Elise Le Duigou, who is doing a great job, and introducing more music and art to the kids. Elise is a real music lover so she should have no trouble fitting in to Kinvara! We wish her all the best in her new job. When the new playschool opens in 2009, this childcare centre will remain the same community-based service. The only change will be that we have a fabulous new building with better equipment and an outdoor play area for the children.

Lynn O'Keefe-Lascar

Assistant Chair, Kinvara Community Playgroup



BAPTISMS

June '06 to December '07

Yasmin Kennedy
John Kavanagh
Izza Soliva
Thomas McIntyre
Ryan Murphy
Katie & Brianna Meyler
Nicole Heanen
Ella Bergin
Rory O'Donnell
Leah Hanley
Daithí Mossman
Michael McSweeney
Daragh Moran
Donnacha Ganley
Daragh Kelly
Donnacha Ward
Lauren Doody
Lile Connolly
Lucas Sheedy
Meidhbhin Connolly
Ava & Ciara Mitchell
Ciarra Hill

January '07 to December '07

Leslie O'Flaherty
Sunny Fahey
Sam Gilfoyle
Ciara Mitchell
Pádraig Conole
Conor McDonagh
Liam Mitchell
Aideen Tarpey
Luke Kelly
Conor Keane
Sarah Gallaher
Rhys O'Connor
Naoise Flatley
John Durkan
John Tannion
Grace Fordham
Siobhán O'Connor
Pádraig Naughton
Niamh & Sarah Kidd
Sarah Walsh
Stephen Cullinane
Aisling Quinn
Aine Mooney
Laura & Adam Cunningham
Gearóid Huban
Aoibhin O'Donoghue
Thomas Byrne
Riona Morgan O'Donoghue
Sarah Gunning
Sean Walsh

David Forde
Darragh McInerney
Lauren & Emma Cullinane
Katie Pearl
Gearóid Cunnane
Dara Corless
Dubhalta Breathnach
Dara Burke
Jack Mulleady
Darragh Kavanagh
Chloe Linnane
Tiernan O'Connor
Leah Jordan

January '08 to August '08

Hugh O'Shaughnessy
Eoin Sheridan
Peter Horan
Paraic Keane
Eabha Doody
Grace O'Connell
Saoirse Kilkelly
Sophie Farragher
Fynn Randall
Matthew Curtin
Ferdia Colgan
Ava Kilkelly
Caoilinn Meehan
Diarmuid Crossan
Ruby Hayes
Emma Mulcahy
Lucas & Lene Burbach
Ciara Burgin
Aoibhe McHugh
Toby McGuinness
Caitlín O'Shaughnessy
Che Givern
Cliona Byrne
Katie Farrelly Hanlon
Dean Pomp
Lile Connolly
Katelyn & Megan Mullarky
Clodagh McCormack Murphy
Grace Moroney
Shane O'Shaughnessy
Eoin O'Connor
Kayla Warde
Roan Gilfoyle
Lorna Tarpey
Cillian Coady
Orrin O'Hanlon
Juliette Sheehan
Lauren Mitchell
Leah O'Connor
Lucy Franklin
Aisling Geaney

Saoirse Hegarty

Missed last issue:

2005: Oscar Connolly (21-02)

DEATHS

2006

Michael O'Loughlin
Donough Forde
Toddie Byrne
Peggy O'Dea
Katie Winkle
Michael McInerney
Joe Leech
Geraldine McInerney
James A. Corless
Jim Purcell
Mary Quinn
Kathleen Staunton

2007

Kathleen Mahon
Molly Quinn
Margaret McCormack
Bridget O'Connor
Julia Gill
Packie Flaherty
Nancy Niland
Nonie Connolly
Martin Shaughnessy
Bridget Brogan
Paddy Hynes
Eileen Mahon

2008

Pat Bligh
Paddy Hynes
Jimmy McInerney
Mary O'Donoghue
John Joe Ryder
Julia McMahan
Mary Glynn
Kevin Lynch
Paddy Curtin
Bridget O'Halloran
Miko Moroney
Patrick Hanlon
James Morris
Mary Burke
Michael John Fahy
Mary Lally
Edward Manning
Paddy Madden
Mary Noone

(Compiling this list is never easy!
- apologies if we missed
someone or misspelt any names)

Obituary: Bridget Brogan née McNiff

Bridget McNiff was born in Drumsna, Co. Leitrim in 1914. She was the middle child of a farming family whose father James had returned from gold mining in Alaska. He married Margaret Doherty and they settled on the banks of the River Shannon.

At the age of 14, Bridget threw her schoolbag into the flowing river and was sent to Cavan town to serve as an apprentice hat maker for Smiths. At 18, she moved to Cryans in Ballinamore to continue her career. Through the window of Cryan's shop, she had noticed this handsome young Garda patrolling the town and fell in love. She married Michael Brogan and they were transferred to Kinvara, Co. Galway in 1939.

She reared a family of nine sons and five daughters whilst continuing to earn for the household through running a B&B and knitting of every manner of clothing. In the early sixties, on Michael's retirement they opened a shop in Kinvara selling groceries and vegetables grown in their own garden. Bridget loved the shop and as the years passed, she found her best custom in the schoolchildren of Kinvara and her close friends who, dropping in for the weekly shop,

would spend their mornings chatting at the counter. Bridget did not yearn for wealth and owning a car or going on holiday were not even considered. However, she was ambitious for her children. She insisted on putting them through secondary school in the hope they would fulfil their own potential from there. They forged their own lives but always returned to Kinvara where the house would be bustling with grandchildren who Bridget adored.

After sharing over 60 years together, her husband Michael passed away and her life was further touched by sorrow following the deaths of her beloved children, Enda and Breda. Throughout her grief, she accepted this as God's will, displaying a strength of character that would continue until her own passing at the age of 93.

Her final years were spent at the window of her sitting room in Kinvara, reading and enjoying the company of old friends and family. She is survived by Jim, Ann, Maura, Jerry, Bernadette, Paddy, Josette, Michael, Finbarr, Declan, Vincent, Colm, 47 grandchildren and 9 great grandchildren. May she rest in peace.

Obituary: Paddy Madden

Paddy Madden, born 24 February 1922, died 20 August 2008. Husband of Margaret and father to Mary, John, Patricia, Rita, Bridie, Ann, Geraldine, Patrick and Declan.

Paddy Madden was a friend to many in Kinvara. He was well known for his many skills related to rural living, rearing poultry and game fowl; killing rabbits and butchering pigs; growing, reaping and binding straw for thatching, some thatching he did himself; and digging the graves for the people of Kinvara and nearby parishes. He helped neighbours at both the sowing and the harvest, always with a friendly word and a knowing smile. We will miss him.

THE TIDE FULL IN

O! 'tis sad in Dooras when the tide is low
And the green fields buried neath the frost and snow,
And the dark nights dreary with the curlew's cry,
And I thinking, thinking of the days gone by.

O! the happy summers of the olden days,
And the brown boats stealing through the golden haze,
And the cuckoo calling from the woods within,
And my love beside me and the tide full in.

Was I not foolish when I let him go
To seek his fortune where the west winds blow?
O! if Heaven brought him to my aching heart
With my two arms round him we would never part.

O! the happy summers of the olden days,
And the brown boats stealing through the golden haze,
And the cuckoo calling from the woods within,
And my love beside me and the tide full in.

But a dear, dear letter on my fond heart lies,
And its words of promise more than life I prize
For its whispers, "Stóirín, soon I'll fortune win,
And return to claim you — and the tide full in."

O! the happy summers of the olden days,
And the brown boats stealing through the golden haze,
And the cuckoo calling from the woods within,
And my love beside me and the tide full in.

Francis Fahy (1854-1935)



Changing times in Kinvara. As we go to press, we learn that the Ould Plaid Shawl, run by John Griffin, is to close its doors as a pub before the end of the year. Musicians and punters will remember the many sessions held here in this fine, atmospheric pub, and the banter with its congenial host. Formerly Green's Hotel and Posting, this historic building operated as an inn in the early 1900s, after being sold by the parents of poet and songwriter Francis Fahy (1854-1935), who was born in this house. Photo: Kim Rigney.

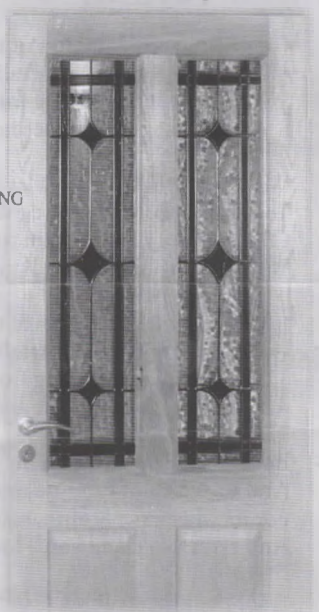
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