The IRD Duhallow region includes North West Cork and South East Kerry. It is approximately 1,800 sq.km and has a population density of 16 per sq. km. It is a largely rural area. Over 85% of the population live in the open countryside or in settlements of less than 200 people.

The Duhallow region has four market towns: Kanturk (Pop 2263), Millstreet (Pop 1574), Newmarket (Pop 988) and Rathmore (Pop 778) and 36 villages.
Chairman’s Address

The past year will go down in the Annals of Duhallow as the year of the great test of the Board’s leadership, courage and tenacity.

Our strategic planning day was taken up with positioning ourselves, crystallising the issues that we felt were at stake and that were core to our existence. Community-led Local Development is just that, owned, and led by the community. It is a countywide and bottom-up, not top-down. We have consulted with our communities and got a resounding vote of confidence when over 800 people attended our public meeting to show their support for LEADER. I want to thank Frank Lewis of Radio Kerry for chairing the event and Dr Brendan O’Kerry for his valuable insights and strong leadership approach to the best way forward for alignment.

The past year was very challenging and tested the leadership of the Board and that leadership came to the fore in strength. The eight former chairs formed an advisory group and a more formidable group would be hard to find. I want to thank them for stepping up to the mark in this way.

The board members too put their shoulders to the wheel and the Chair of the Working Groups ensured that all continued their work in delving the targets set out for them by the Board, as well as keeping staff morale high during those times when concerted efforts were being made to demoralise those working in the sector.

In particular, former Chairman of IRD Duhallow and of the European LEADER Association for Rural Development, Jack Roche, has been indefatigable in his efforts to protect and promote the bottom up community led ethos of the Company. He travelled to Brussels to meet and led the National LEADER Rally in Dublin. His example in leadership and his courageous stand, makes him a role model in the sector.

I also wish to thank the Company Vice Chair, Anne Marie Bourke who also chairs the Finance sub-committee, for her steadfast support and wise counsel. It remains to be seen if any compromise on the future of companies like IRD Duhallow can be reached, one would hope and expect that with the groundswell of support from all sectors of our communities and our regions right across the country that it should not only be possible but desirable.

Another challenge we have taken on is the report on the Rural Social Scheme in which an attempt is made to equate it to and condemn it as a labour market initiative, which of course it is not. Small holders, are self-employed farmers whose existence provides the countryside with the biodiversity and green landscape, on the back of which our tourism and food industries are marketed. In the absence of the Rural Social Scheme, the future of small farm families in Duhallow would be seriously threatened. The number of small farms in Ireland and indeed the EU is steadily declining as labour moves out of the agriculture sector making land available for consolidation. This is not a realistic future for the Duhallow region, where the land would much more than likely be purchased by farmers of larger holdings located elsewhere well outside of Duhallow for stock management purposes and they would continue to farm their existing landholding.

Cormac Collins
CHAIRMAN

Manager’s Report

In reviewing the work of the Company over this the final year of the delivery of a number of our main programmes, LEADER, Local Community Development, Programme, Equality for Women, Rural Transport, LIFE+ and Leonardo da Vinci, their huge importance in the delivery of LEADER and indeed of the Board of IRD Duhallow. Throughout this Progress Report you will see the inputs, voluntary, professional and financial that have gone into all aspects of our projects and programmes and the outputs in terms of jobs, training, local inclusion, new services, amenities and infrastructure.

The overall outcome is a much better quality of life for our children, young people, adults and elderly as well as future generations. Existing and new communities have all benefited from the work of IRD Duhallow. We must surely be in the integrated delivery of programmes and schemes where the maxim of “the whole is greater than the sum of the parts” holds true.

The IRD Duhallow Tuis scheme was awarded the National Employment Initiative of the year 2014 by LEAAM, the Local Authority Members Association and deservedly so. Our supervisory work hard under the guidance of Team Leader Triona Murphy, to provide the best possible experience for the TUS, RIS, NSC participants and supervisors and work learn side by side and this, we believe will add value to all three schemes. Ambitious projects have been taken on, but I am confident that they will stand as testament to the skills and commitment of everyone involved. As a result of the economic downturn we appreciate the support we receive from the Department of Social Protection under Principal Officer, TJ Fleming and his team nationally, Sin Murphy and his team and Frank Heffernan in the Regional Office and Collette Vaughan and her team in Newmarket Department of Social Protection.

As we move into a new era of public competitive tendering for programmes, with the vast involvement through a local social partnership model, we have to adapt in order to compete with local, national and international competition. JobPath is a new initiative to progress unemployed people into work. Along with nine other local development companies across the south of Ireland we formed the Tuisa Consortium in order to tender to deliver this service.

The new social inclusion programme is also a formidable tenderer for those who get through the phase one selection process. The company has decided that social inclusion is best tackled at a local level, therefore, we have tended on our own in anticipation that the existing foot print but reporting to the Local Authorities Local Community Development Committees.

Our thanks to Osgood McDevitt of the Department of Community and Local Government and Jerry Murphy and his team in Pobal who are overseeing the process.

Our Warmer Homes team under Team Leader Helen O’Sullivan and Co-ordinator Colm Crowley is also involved in tendering for work for the region. Warmer homes not only reduces carbon emissions, it saves the scarce income of pensioners and low income families, it serves as a gateway for families to access other supports and services in IRD Duhallow. I want to thank Gareth Walsh of KSN and Brendan Murphy of IDA for their input and audit of our warmer homes work, to ensure we operate to the highest standard.

Indeed the company has several audits on all aspects of our work, financial records and governance. Thanks to Patrick Buita and his team in the regional Co-ordinator Colm Crowley, Department Inspector for the LEADER Programme and Willkie of Astra the LIFE Programme Auditor, NSA, the National Standards Authority of Ireland, the Environmental Health Officer Caroline Smyth, the Health and Safety Authority Inspector, William Murphy and Gerard McSweeney, our company auditors Mary Power, Barbara O’Leary and Debbie Collins of Westminster Partners and Enda Ryan of FDC Accountants.

The highlight of the year so far, must be the news from DG Environment in Brussels that we had been successful in our application for a second LIFE Programme aimed at enhancing the habitats of the Upper Blackwater for Raptos, one of only three successful projects in the country. Well done to Michael Doyle and the Environment Working Group and Dr. Fran Iggo and Kenan Murphy of our Enterprise Team on this success.

Our thanks to Siobhan Nic Thrainnean and Seosamh O’Laoi of the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government for their support and encouragement in making the bid.

In particular, I want to thank our Assistant Manager, Eileen Linehan for her expertise, management skills, insightfulness, boundless energy and patience. The management teams of Triona Murphy and Helen O’Sullivan who continue to expand and grow our services, Margaret O’Connor and her team in Finance for keeping us afloat, Dermot Cobbert and Marie Fleming for their dedication and hard work in administration.

Our Development Officers Mary McHugh, Katie Crowley, Louise Bourke and Laura Corcoran who go above and beyond the call of duty in serving the communities and project promoters and to Louise who co-ordinated the production of this Progress Report again this year. The RSSL, Tuis and CE Supervisors who have inspired and expanded the scope of the schemes; Yvonne and her team in DART for their continued loyalty and patience. The management teams of Triona Murphy and Helen O’Sullivan for their support and encouragement in making the bid.

Cormac Collins, our Chairmain, who has been steadfast in upholding the principles that this company was founded on, for holding the ship steady during this period of economic downturn. Indeed we can continue on our mission, serving the communities developing the local economy, protecting the environment, taking the causes of social exclusion and supporting and encouraging those on the margins.

Maura Walsh
CEO IRD DUHALLOW
IRD Duhallow Ltd. Company Structure

IRD Duhallow is a Community based Rural Development Company established in 1989. It is a company limited by guarantee without share capital. It has charitable status and our directors are voluntary and receive no remuneration for their contribution. It administers and implements a number of EU and National Programmes such as LEADER, Local Community Development Programme, Equality for Women, and LIFE+ in order to achieve the economic, social, cultural, and environmental development of the Duhallow Region.

IRD Duhallow complies with the Governance Code for the Community, Voluntary and Charitable Sector in Ireland, the Board of IRD Duhallow adopted the Governance Code Principles Statement in 2013 and is listed on the Register of Compliance. The Memorandum and Articles of Association reflect best practice and are in accordance with the Charities Act, 2011.

The Board membership reflects the integration of Social Inclusion and Rural Development, the importance of the environment and community volunteers and the democratically elected Local Authority Members.

Reflective of the integrated nature of our work, the Company’s Board and Sub Committee Structures have evolved over the years and enjoy a massive amount of good will and voluntary contribution in the region. Upwards of 3,500 people participate from the bottom up through these structures.

IRD Duhallow has a number of working groups with representatives from our Board and staff as well as community and state sector representatives. This structure allows us to target specific expertise beneficial to the implementation of the strategic aims assigned to the particular working groups.

IRD Duhallow continues to strive for excellence through the ongoing training and development of our staff. We have maintained the Excellence Through People Standard, Ireland’s standard for Human Resource Management which is now administered by the National Standards Authority of Ireland. Certification in Public Procurement for EU funded projects as well as in State aid rules for National and EU funds have been achieved.

IRD Duhallow Board Members

**Statutory, Environment and Social Enterprise**

**Cormac Collins**
Cormac is currently the Chairman of IRD Duhallow. He is also the ESB Networks Area manager, and has been appointed to the Board to represent the State sector having previously served as Community Representative for Western Area. ESB has worked closely with IRD Duhallow in delivering three phase electric to many small industries in rural Duhallow and has also supported the Warner Homes Scheme since its beginning. He is chair of Gneeveguilla Community Council. He serves on the HR, Finance and Community Development Working Groups.

**Suzanne Campion**
Suzanne represents Inland Fisheries Ireland where she is Head of Business Development and is their nominated representative to the Southern and Eastern Regional Assembly and the Border Midland and West Regional Assembly. Suzanne has worked as a manager and accountant in the public and private sectors with experience in the agri-food industry. As Head of Business Development with IFI, her focus is on developing the business of angling. Suzanne plays a pivotal role in the partnership between IRD Duhallow and IFI who are our partners in the EU Live+ Programme.

**Michael Doyle**
Michael represents the Environment Pillar on the board. Michael worked for many years as a forestry manager with Coillte. He is a member of the Finance Committee and also chairs the Equality, Disability and Migrants Working Group. Michael is also Chair of the Environment Working Group, which has promoted initiatives that have led to the LIFE+ programmes success. He represents IRD Duhallow on the board of Cork Sports Partnership and also several National fora dealing with equality and integration. Michael liaises with the Sports Council of Ireland and the National Trails committee on the development and maintenance of our long distance and looped walks.

**Don Crowley**
Don Crowley lives in Banteer and is a former Chairman of IRD Duhallow, having held the role from 2006 until 2009. He was re-appointed to the Board in 2012 representing Cork Institute of Technology where he is Head of Department of Organization & Professional Development. He is an active member of the Finance Committee, Employment and Training and Social Economy Working Groups. He brings experience of business and community projects as well as supporting lifelong education training and delivering opportunities for marginalised individuals and target groups.

**Breeda Moynihan Cronin**
Breeda rejoined the board in 2014 to represent Social Enterprises. Breeda was a member of Dáil Éireann from 1992 - 2007, member of Kerry Co. Council from 1999 - 2003 and again from 2011 - 2013. As her constituency included the East Kerry area which she served for over 20 years Breeda is very familiar with Duhallow. At present Breeda is chair of ESSA (Electrical Contractors Safety Standards Association) Ireland and is involved in a number of voluntary and charitable organisations.

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**Tony Sugrue**
Inspector Tony joined the Board in 2011 to represent the Statutory Pillar. He is an Inspector with An Garda Síochána and is presently stationed in Castleisland working with the Kerry Traffic corps. He was formerly based in Kanturk. While Tony was based in Macroom he was Area Administrator in Kanturk Garda Station from 1994 to 2003. He is a keen angler and a member of Killarney Salmon & Trout Angling Club. Tony sits on the Social Economy Working Groups. He is married to Anne and they have three children.

**Brenda Moynihan Cronin**
Breeda rejoined the board in 2014 to represent Social Enterprises. Breeda was a member of Dáil Éireann from 1992 - 2007, member of Kerry Co. Council from 1999 - 2003 and again from 2011 - 2013. As her constituency included the East Kerry area which she served for over 20 years Breeda is very familiar with Duhallow. At present Breeda is chair of ESSA (Electrical Contractors Safety Standards Association) Ireland and is involved in a number of voluntary and charitable organisations.

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IRD Duhallow Board Members
LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND SOCIAL PARTNERS

Michael Twoghill
Michael is a Board Member of IRD Duhallow and served as Chairman from 2011-2013. He also in the past served as Finance Director of the company. He represents Kanturk Chamber of Commerce on the board. With his wife Norvene he managed the family owned Supervalue Stores in Kanturk, Abbeyfeale and Askeaton. A keen angler and hunter, he has developed a number of angling projects in Duhallow. Michael is also a founding member of the Enterprise Working Group, Finance and Audit Working Group and HR Committee. He also sits on the Life + Steering Committee.

Anne Maria Bourke
Anne Marie Bourke is the Board’s Vice Chairman and Chair of the Finance Committee, representing the Industrial Co-operative Society. Anne Marie is the Principal of Lourdes N.S., which offers special classes for children with autism. She is an active member of the Main Circular Community Development Association and has served as a board member of the Cork CPPA (Irish Primary Principal Network). In addition, she is a Chaplaincy Minister with the North Cork Primary Schools’ Group. She is a keen bridge player and is a member of both Boreenmanna and Kanturk Bridge Club.

Bernard Moynihan
Bernard was elected to Cork County Council in May 2014 and was subsequently nominated to the board of IRD Duhallow. Bernard lives in Dromtarriffe, Kiskeam and is a part-time farmer, he is also an ASTR Union Representative for the Cork and Kerry region since 1999. Bernard was one of the first members of the Kiskeam Community Development Association and has previously served as the Treasurer of the union. He is also a founding member of the Enterprise Working Group and has considered experience in engaging with the public, lobbying for constraints and being at the forefront of various local campaigns.

Melissa Mullan
Olive Mullan is the Sinn Fein Councillor for the Kanturk/Castlemagner area. Melissa is married with a teenage daughter and was previously a Town Councillor in Mallow Town Council. Melissa is a long time employee of Dairygold Co-operative Society and former part-time WIC Tutor in Mallow. She is also a former trade union representative. A member of her party for over 10 years, she has considerable experience in engaging with the public, lobbying for constraints and being at the forefront of various local campaigns.

Danny Healy Rae
Danny Healy Rae is a farmer, publican and politician; he is married to Eileen and they have six children, he has been an Independent Councillor on Cork City Council for eleven years and has worked diligently for his Constituents since then. Some of his achievements include health, employment, roads, planning, housing, water and sewage services, agriculture and all other problems that affect people on a daily basis. He is a member of the HSE South and a member of the Roads & Transport Committee. Danny Healy Rae is looking forward to actively participating on the Board of IRD Duhallow.

Jack Roche
Jack Roche is from Rockchapel and represents the South Eastern Duhallow Region. Jack represents IRD Duhallow on a number of forums including ELCN and a number of community groups. Jack also represents ELCN on BLERD the European Association for Rural Development of which he is a past President. He is very involved in cultural development of the region including the development of the Batch of Banks at Carraig Carraige Cultural Centre in Rockchapel, the Na Carraige Cultural Trail.

Deirdre Green
Deirdre is from Fermount and was elected to the board of IRD Duhallow in 2010 representing the South Eastern Duhallow region. She holds a Bachelors Degree in Business from CIT and a Higher Diploma in Education from UCC. She works as an accountant in Mallow. Deirdre is deeply involved in the development of her local community. She is a founding member of Fermount Badminton Club and current a member of Fermount Community Development Assoc. Deirdre sits on our Community Development Working Group and is vice chair of the Women’s Forum.

Sheila Crowley
Sheila was elected to the board of IRD Duhallow to represent the South Eastern Duhallow Region. Sheila is chair of the IRD Duhallow Catering Working Group. She is secretary of Laharn Community Action Group and has worked diligently with the group to transform the old school house at Laharn into a newly refurbished Heritage Centre- Sheila is married to Ted and they have two children. Sheila is a chef by profession and is proprietor of Aisling’s Diner in Laharn.

Judy O’Leary
Judy O’Leary first joined the Board of IRD Duhallow in 1997 representing women’s groups. She chairs the Women and Childcare Working Group and is a member of the HR Working Group. Judy is a founder member of the Cork Co-operative Society. She holds from Dromtarriffe and is an actively involved in her local community. She is a long standing member of the Irish Country Women’s Association and is the Information Officer for the Free North Cork Guilds and Vice President for the Dromtarriffe Guild. She has also served as Vice Chair of IRD Duhallow for 3 years.

John Cott
John was elected to the board of IRD Duhallow to represent the South Eastern Duhallow Region Forum. He is a beef farmer from Carrigaline in the parish of Castlemagner. He is a long time member of Carrigaline GAA Club, and is also involved with the Ladies Football Club, the Hall Committee and Carrigaline Community Development Association. He is the current Chairman of Carrigaline GAA Club and is a board member of IFC, the National network of Co-operatives. John is married to Una and they have three children.

IRD Duhallow Board Members
COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST AND COMMUNITY FORUM

Batt Casey
Batt Casey was elected to the board of IRD Duhallow in 2014 representing the Western Duhallow region. He is an active member of the Kiskeam community and volunteers with many community and voluntary groups. He is also a member of Boreenmanna Chamber of Commerce and also of Boreenmanna Kiskeam St. Vincent de Paul Society. Batt is a member of Macra na Feirme and is a full time farmer by profession. Batt is married to Joan and they have seven children.

Brian Kelly
Brian was elected to the board to represent the Western Duhallow region in June 2014. He has over 30 years experience in the trade industry and worked as an electrical contractor and is a founding member and former director of ECISSA (a body set to regulate the electrical industry). He along with his wife Anna have two young children and are seen regularly on the advertising board for Subway Ireland. He is an active member of Rathmore Community Council and was instrumental in bringing the playground and the linear lighting to Rathmore.

John Kirwan
John was re-elected to the Board of IRD Duhallow for a second term in June 2012 by the South Eastern Duhallow Forum. He chairs both the Community Development and the Employment and Training Working Groups. John is also a member of the Board of Management of Banter National School and sits on the board of Banter Coche. He is an active member of the Rathmore Community Council and is vice chair of the Women’s Forum.

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Details of Staff

EILEEN LINEHAN, B.A. (Hons) Geography, B.Us. (Housing Economics), Dip Personnel Management in Public Personnel (Jed Funded Project)

Eileen is the Assistant Manager responsible for the Corporate and Social Enterprise, B.Us. Public Health & Prevention

TRITON MURPHY, B.Com and Social & Economic Enterprise, B.Us. Public Health & Prevention

Triton joined IRD Duhallow in 2006 and is now the Community Development & Employment Team Leader. Triton oversees the operations of the Social Enterprise, Tús and the Equality for Women’s Measure. He works in animation and capacity building with local groups in the catchment area and oversees much of the on-the-ground actions. He also delivers educational workshops on communication, stakeholder management and conflict resolution to schools of Duhallow, and the general public, on the LIFE Bats and Bats and Biodiversity Programme. Triton is also the co-ordinator of the TRShark Bats and Biodiversity Project.

DR. FRAN IGLOE, PhD Zoology, BSc Science

Fran joined IRD Duhallow as Project Scientist in 2011. Previously he worked for the Freshwater Biological Association and for Birdwatch Ireland. Currently he co-ordinates the LIFE Project, which is composed of several research projects across Ireland. These include monitoring Freshwater Pearl Mullet, Atlantic Salmon, Chlidonias hybridus together with the ‘flipstones’ found in the freshwaters of Ireland. Fran’s expertise in delivering the technical elements of the project will be of benefit in supporting the LIFE Bats and Biodiversity Project. Fran’s research interests are in the interface of science and media and the project website. As part of the Enterprise team Francis is part of the Senior Team Leader, the Environment Forum and the LIFE Steering Committee.

KATIE CROWLEY, B.Sc. Postgraduate Diploma in Rural Development, MAAT, E-Learning Coordinator

Katie joined IRD Duhallow in 2007 as Development Officer on the Enterprise team and works across the LCDF and LEADER Programmes. She is responsible for the Communication and Stakeholder Management for the Enterprise team. Katie is also a manager of the Knowledge and Innovation Space. Katie oversees the operation of the Social Enterprise and the programme website and she also co-ordinates the Educational Programmes of the Catchment and Community Partnerships, the Ballyhoura Community and South West Laois Community Partnerships, the Cross-Cork Community Development Project and the LCDF and LEP programmes. She is the co-ordinator of the IRD Duhallow Benevolence Support and Domestic ViolenceHelplines.


Mary is the Senior Public & Social Enterprise Development Officer. She is responsible for promoting the development of food enterprises and cooperatives in the Duhallow area and for promoting education and training for adults wishing to return to education by coordinating a range of training opportunities. Mary is a member of the Equality Group, the Equality for Women’s Measure, the Duhallow Social Enterprise Initiative and the Equality Group, the Equality for Women’s Measure. She is also the key contact for the Duhallow Women’s Forum, the Employment and Training and Equating and Squashing Wisdom Groups. Mary is Chairperson of the Health and Safety Committee.

MARGARET O’CONNOR, M.A. Accounting Technology, App – Parallel Technology

Margaret is the Senior Accounts Administrator and has been responsible for the accounts for IRD Duhallow since seventeen years. She is responsible for the establishment and maintenance of the accounts, the preparation of the accounts and the monthly accounts. Margaret is responsible for the implementation of the appointment of external auditors across the various programmes delivered including LEADER and LCDF. Margaret also oversees the Parallel Project and the accounts administration and provides a range of financial management and budgeting services to the Directors of the organisation on a monthly basis.

LAURA CORCORAN, B.A. (Hons) Geography, B.Us. (Housing Economics), Dip Personnel Management in Public Personnel (Jed Funded Project)

Laura joined IRD Duhallow in 2015 and has an ongoing project to support a local community and carrying out various administrative duties during the Summer periods. Laura also has has responsibility for the Enterprise team works as Events Development Officer with the Enterprise Team. Her role is to develop new projects and deliver projects for our colleagues which are delivered in the freshwaters of Ireland. Laura is currently undertaking the ACA exams in Chartered Accounting.

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Kieran is a qualified teacher and has been a member of the IRD Duhallow teaching staff for 12 years. Kieran has taught in both the primary and post primary sectors and has occupied various administrative roles such as team leader, curriculum co-ordinator and in the management and administration of education. He is currently the Administrative and Support Services Manager and also the Manager for the Duhallow Birdwatching Project. Kieran is also a member of the Conservation and Education Team. His role is to develop projects in the area of education and to liaise with schools and other organisations to develop educational opportunities in the area.

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LAURA CORCORAN, B.A. (Hons) Geography, B.Us. (Housing Economics), Dip Personnel Management in Public Personnel (Jed Funded Project)

Laura joined IRD Duhallow in 2015 and has an ongoing project to support a local community and carrying out various administrative duties during the Summer periods. Laura also has has responsibility for the Enterprise team works as Events Development Officer with the Enterprise Team. Her role is to develop new projects and deliver projects for our colleagues which are delivered in the freshwaters of Ireland. Laura is currently undertaking the ACA exams in Chartered Accounting.

Kieran is a qualified teacher and has been a member of the IRD Duhallow teaching staff for 12 years. Kieran has taught in both the primary and post primary sectors and has occupied various administrative roles such as team leader, curriculum co-ordinator and in the management and administration of education. He is currently the Administrative and Support Services Manager and also the Manager for the Duhallow Birdwatching Project. Kieran is also a member of the Conservation and Education Team. His role is to develop projects in the area of education and to liaise with schools and other organisations to develop educational opportunities in the area.
LIFE+

The IRD Duhallow LIFE+ programme has been an innovative project implemented over the past 4 years, activating a conservation plan for a number of endangered fish and birds in the Munster Blackwater River, which involved primarily restoration works on the Allow River. Restoration works are proposed to be conducted on the Allow River. Co-financed by the EU Commission and the Irish exchequer, and the project is being run in partnership with Inland Fisheries Ireland. Key project actions aimed to protect threatened European species, European Otter, Kingfisher, Atlantic Salmon and Freshwater Pearl Mussel within the upper reaches of the River Blackwater (A Special Area of Conservation (SAC) under the EU Habitats Directive).

Over the last year the LIFE project has continued to work with landowners, state agencies, anglers and the general public to progress important conservation work on the ground. Again significant emphasis has been placed on public awareness initiatives.

Working with farmers

The project continues to work with farmers and landowners to help manage cattle along river banks, over 24km of river bank has been fenced along the River Allow. This brings benefits to both the landowner and wildlife. In addition to the extensive river bank fencing work, we have started to replace direct cattle access points to the river with alternative drinking water sources. It is important to note that only areas where cattle have had traditional access can feature in the project, as new abstraction points require planning permission. Alternative drinking water sources being developed and rolled out include pasture pumps, ramwater harvesting and solar powered pump troughs. It is important not only for wildlife, but also the public and livestock, that river water quality is protected to avoid contamination from potential pathogens.

As with the fencing, we are continuing to work with the landowners and our Rural Social Scheme participants refining the technique of silt trapping to make it more practical for landowners to maintain the practice and to reduce the siltation of the river bed, for the benefit of the Freshwater Pearl Mussel.

LIFE+ in the Community

Our appeal for used Christmas trees this year was met with an enthusiastic response from the public for which we are most grateful. These trees will be used to help protect river banks on the River Daula. In addition to these the public and Coillte have kindly donated over 2,000 native alder, asht, birch and sallow trees. The species recording in your neighbourhood is still on going in our local schools with the help of a student from Immaculate College on third level student placement with IRD Duhallow.

The LIFE project has recently received a number of praise pumps for cattle.

Signage

The project installed five attractive information signs outlining the importance of the River Blackwater SAC, Area of Conservation and the important wildlife for which it is designated.

Integrated Catchment Management

The LIFE project teamed up with the INTERREG TRAP project. The latter project is coordinated by the Regional Assembly and seeks to develop good practice regarding water management. Building on the planning expertise from the TRAP project together with the on ground experience of the IRD Duhallow LIFE project, a catchment management initiative was launched for the River Allow. This could become a template for other river catchments such as the River Allow, which would complement and build on the work already carried out by IRD Duhallow and the local community.

LIFE project workshops with landowners and a number of stakeholder groups facilitated by Niall Walsh from the Department of Geography Mary Immaculate College on third level student placement with IRD Duhallow.

LIFE+ and its partners have been involved in the development of practical solutions to important conservation issues. More recently the project was invited to present at the Environmental Protection Agency National Water Event, to outline how the project has developed practical measures to help improve water quality by working with stakeholders. Five universities are actively involved and supporting the LIFE project.

LIFE+ has placed Christmas tree and native habitats for birds which will provide shelter and food to local wildlife.

Time journal photo: Brendan O’Connor visits the river Allow after restoration works using old Christmas trees donated by the public.
Agriculture

2014 has been dedicated as the International Year of Family Farming, which aims to raise the profile of family farming and smallholder farming by focusing on the significant role it has on eradicating hunger and poverty, providing food security and nutrition, improving livelihoods, managing natural resources, protecting the environment, and achieving sustainable development particularly in rural areas. Family farming is the most common operational farming model in Europe and thus of great importance in the EU. Research conducted as part of a recent UCD study has highlighted that for every €100 of farm output, it generates another €73 in the wider economy through spin-off purchases and spending.

Promotion of low income Farm Families through the LECP funded Focal Farmer Programme is an integral part of IRD Duhallow’s activities and since the introduction of the Programme in 1996 we have assisted over 5,600 families whose farm household viability is under threat. The agri-food sector contributes significantly to Duhallow’s economic and social environment.

Focal Farmer Programme

The primary purpose of the Focal Farmer Programme is to provide tailored supports to farm families whose farm household viability is under threat, our aim is to help improve family income and thereby safeguard the economic viability of the household. The requirements of every farm household are different, and supports are tailored to meet the needs of individuals where possible; the average family farm income varies considerably by farm system. During this past year the Agriculture Working Group undertook a broad range of activities directly assisting low income farm families. €16,800 was distributed to 115 farmers in Duhallow rewarding them for their continued farm efficiency work including AI, Milk Recording and Soil Sampling. Soil testing is now a key component in Nutrient Management Planning and is playing an important role in eradicating hunger and poverty, providing food security and nutrition, improving livelihoods, managing natural resources, protecting the environment, and achieving sustainable development particularly in rural areas. Family farming is the most common operational farming model in Europe and thus of great importance in the EU. Research conducted as part of a recent UCD study has highlighted that for every €100 of farm output, it generates another €73 in the wider economy through spin-off purchases and spending.

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Women in Agriculture

Up to 600 delegates attended the Women in Agriculture Conference in Killarney last October and IRD Duhallow facilitated sixty women to attend the event. The conference was held in conjunction with the Irish Farmers Journal and IBID. This year’s conference highlighted the issues of concern for women directly involved in farming. Areas discussed at the event were succession planning, physical and mental health and current policy issues in agriculture. Eimear Walsh, mother of the Late Donal Walsh addressed the conference, Donal who raised funds tirelessly while battling Cancer has now had the Donal Walsh #Livelife Foundation set up by his family primarily in order to promote his anti-suicide lifestyle message.

Positive Mental Health - Let’s Talk and Walk

A month long Campaign took place during May to raise awareness on the Green Ribbon which is now the international symbol for mental health awareness and promotes positive mental health. The concept of the “Green Ribbon” was introduced to Ireland by See Change, a national programme to reduce stigma and challenge discrimination associated with mental health. IRD Duhallow together with IFA, Mental Health Ireland, Coillte Outdoors and See Change organised a Walk and Talk event in the Island wood, Newmarket on Sunday the 25th May. The walk was officially opened by Tim O’Leary, Deputy President of IFA. Also present on the day were IRD Duhallow Board member Michael Doyle who guided the walk, Jimmy Moore, Walking Leaders Aide, Sheila O’Keeffe, Suibhan McSweeney of the IFA Family Committe and Charlie Bourke representing Coillte Outdoors. Over ninety farm and non-farm families participated on the walk which coincided with National Traiils Day in Duhallow.

Duhallow Beekeepers

For many people, thoughts of bees are often dominated by swarms of small yellow and black “hives” that live in trees, make honey, and attack with a painful sting. This, however, is far from the true nature of some of the most important organisms on Earth. Albert Einstein has been quoted as saying, “If the bee disappeared off the surface of the globe, then humans would have only four years of life left!” There is a wonderful passion and enthusiasm for beekeeping in Duhallow and Duhallow Beekeepers Association currently has sixty果汁 members. The primary aim of the association is to provide support, mentoring and training for beginner, novice and advance Beekeepers. Guest speakers during the year included: Rodmonds William Chambers, the Gabe Beekeepers Association, Noel Power of the Cork County Beekepers and John Brennan of Limerick.

Agrioln 2013 - 2014

IRD Duhallow | Progress Report

LEADER and Diversification

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Kerry show 2014

Irish Dairy Farmers Young Farmer Development Centres launched as part of the agri-frazoty Frantiis Dairy farmers at work helping his grandfather on the family farm

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Tourism in Duhallow

IRD Duhallow’s tourism development strategy has been to maximise the potential of our natural resources, our unique culture and heritage, strong traditions and historic roots, as well as the scenery and iconic sites. Our various funding programmes have allowed us to invest and generate direct and indirect economic spinoff from devising tourism services and opportunities around these resources and natural assets for the communities in the Duhallow region.

Festivals and Events

Festivals and events are an important part of community life within Duhallow. Since the recession, there has been an increase in the numbers of ‘in-migrants’ visiting the area, as many people are coming home to visit their families and friends for short stays. Throughout 2013, Duhallow capitalised on this by hosting the Gathering Festival in association with our annual Day of the Regions Events, inviting visitors to come to celebrate their roots.

Through collective marketing, and lessons learnt through networking and best practice the standard of festivals and events in Duhallow is increasing. In addition, many of theLeader funded amenities such as Ballyhass Lakes and Millstreet Country Park, and the equestrian facilities in the Green Glen Arena and Kilgalway House host a number of large scale events each year and have a strong role in the domestic tourism market, attracting visitors from all over Ireland, and even further field to events such as the annual RSC Annual 20k and 10k, the All-Ireland Pony Club Festival, the annual Bank Holiday Festival, the Tradational Craft Festival, and both Millstreet and Kilgalway House International FEI events. These festivals and regular events with their target audience provide excellent marketing and showcasing opportunities to support and grow all our products and activities for the future.

Accommodation

The shortage of accommodation within the region has been the main hindrance to the development of the Duhallow tourism industry. With the support of the LEADER 07-13, eight tourism providers have opened self catering accommodations that among these include Conrad and Gianna Jones’ Eco Pod Campsite, which is situated on the side of Mushena Mountain and offers a unique outdoor ‘Glamping’ (Glamorous Camping) experience.

Tourism Networking

To continue to build on our existing tourism industry, the Enterprise and Tourism Working Group identifies the need for all tourism providers to work together and foster mutual synergies that would allow for collaborative marketing opportunities, extending their audience and then the visitor’s experience. Work is ongoing to establish a tourism network to support the tourism providers in promoting the region.

Duhallow Angling Centre of Excellence

The development and preservation of our natural resources has been a key strategy for IRD Duhallow since its inception. In fact, the company was initially set up by a group of local businessmen, with a keen interest in fishing, with a view to accessing European Funds to develop local rivers. The LEADER funds have facilitated the development of many of our rivers over the past 20 years, and the onset of the LEADER 07-13 programme brought with it the opportunity to build on this work by setting up an Angling Centre of Excellence in Duhallow.

Working closely with Kilkerr and District Trout Anglers, Tom Anketell was appointed angling animation in order to develop the angling centre of excellence. Through consultation with Duhallow angling groups, a plan was drawn up to support the river and development groups in waterway management, conservation, pollution elimination and to move towards the preservation and protection of the water as a source of life. The successful development of a Centre of Excellence is largely dependent on the quality and quantity of fishing. We must continue to protect this very valuable natural resource, as the quality of the wild brown trout stocks in our rivers is the major factor of attraction to visiting anglers. Amongst other things, we need to be supported and developed. Through collaboration of key stakeholders in the region, the support of the RIS and TuS workers, the infrastructure and access issues are being managed and enhanced on an ongoing basis. The services are being developed locally through LEADER funding.

Training supports have been initiated to provide advanced training for coaches, lessons for children and young people. This year we set up a coaching programme for adults and children, which involved the use of top class international angling coaches, the programme of events has been planned and a full list of dates and events are available on our brochure.

Most importantly, the majority of children from all social backgrounds can enjoy the sport and research shows that education is improved by making learning fun. During August 2012 the angling centre held its first angling summer camp for children and the interest in this camp far exceeded our expectations. Over the course of the three-day camp the children learned about water safety, fishing tackle assembly, using a range of angling equipment, bait identification, and the countryside. The camp included tuition by some of the IRD Duhallow Life team, who have a great working relationship with the angling centre.

These camps continue to run annually and our third camp will be on the 20th of July this year.

During the winter months we hold regular fly dressing classes, which are well attended, by both children and adults alike. This skill also provides participants with an understanding of the close links between the natural aquatic insects and the fish. At this stage we have coached over 40 children and 37 adults. One of our first summer camp participants Eoin Curtin will represent Ireland in the worlds youth fly-fishing championships taking place in Poland this August.

The Irish youth team is managed by Michael Topping of Kanturk Trout Anglers who has been instrumental in the establishment of the angling centre of excellence.

We have managed to attract a greater number of anglers to the region and this is reflected in the increased number of day tickets provided by local clubs in the past season. In 2013 we had visitors from the USA, Canada, Tazmania, Germany, Netherlands, Belgium, England, Ireland, France and from the domestic market. Some of these visitors are repeat visitors which reflects the quality of our angling. We are confident that this trend will continue and we will attract a greater number of anglers continuing to visit the region over the next few years.

This year we will host an international angling festival as part of our continued commitment to angling in Duhallow.

Charlie O’Keefe from Lismire releasing a brown trout on the Allow river.
Culture and Heritage

Built Heritage

The presentation and restoration of our natural built heritage is a priority action in our Strategic Plan. Significant work has been undertaken with communities over the years to raise awareness of the importance of our built heritage and to animate groups to undertake the sometimes significant work involved in restoring action. With such preservation work being very specialised, our Heritage Animator Dr Fidelma Mullane communicates her time with us helped to guide communities by working closely with them and our Working Groups. This approach has paid dividends with 4 major projects being taken on, under the guidance of conservation Architects Kevin Blackwood & Associates. Glash Old School is one such project where the local community is well underway in restoring the old school and converting it into a community facility which will accommodate the needs of the community into the future.

Under the LEADER Programme a number of buildings and structures in Duhallow have been preserved and restored. One of the most historic buildings which has been supported is the James O’Kiville Institute in Newmarket. Formerly known as Newmarket Court the building was built in 1725 by Isaac Rortney for its then owner Richard Aldworth MP and later owned by the Sisters of St Joseph as a convent. The unique features of this building and its farm buildings have been recognised as having significant historical value to the region. To date some of the main building has been preserved as well as the old smokehouse and pantry. Work is underway on some of the barn buildings, with support from LEADER and with input from Tús and R5S participants.

To continue to raise awareness on our built heritage an information seminar was held in October on the process involved in ‘Caring for Traditional Barns & Thatch Roofs’. This event examined the history of buildings in the countryside, showed the importance of maintaining traditional construction techniques and skills and provided information on caring for rural buildings particularly those with thatched roofs. This was delivered by IRD Duhallow heritage animator Dr Fidelma Mullane who is a specialist in the study and care of traditional buildings and it was part of a series of workshops and seminars in our built heritage programme.

Duhallow Genealogy and Local History Mentoring Programme

Recognising the importance of recording our heritage and educating people on the history of the region, IRD Duhallow in partnership with University of Limerick delivered two Certificate programmes in Oral Heritage Studies and History and Local History.

Participants who successfully completed a course in Digital Heritage Studies.

Heritage Week

IRD Duhallow has actively participated in National Heritage Week each August and has supported communities to organise their own events in the past. The theme nationally for 2013’s Heritage Week was ‘Discover The Past … Build The Future’. As part of this, IRD Duhallow’s Community Archivist Evelyn McCauley held a public workshop on the care and preservation of personal historic photograph collections. Everyone in Duhallow has an old box of photographs in their attic which may have been forgotten about and whose condition has started to deteriorate with time. The event promoted a greater awareness of Duhallow’s photographic heritage while strengthening expertise in photograph care and preservation in the region. Interest was extremely high in this workshop, as expected, and all participants learned archival techniques for the handling, display, and storage of photographic materials, as well as an understanding of the value of photographs in capturing and preserving local history.

Sliehluachra Cultural Trail

Communities across Duhallow have rich culture, traditions and heritage but understandably the Sliehluachra region located in Western Duhallow has brought a uniqueness to the region that sets it apart from everywhere else.

The Sliehluachra area is a bedrock of traditional Irish Music, Song and dance and possesses a rare quality and distinctiveness. The Brunn na Caraige Heritage Centre in Rockchapel has become a hub for the Sliehluachra Region with its music and dance being promoted, taught and preserved while lectures and talks are enlightening people, young and old on the history of the region and its people.

The Sliehluachra Cultural Trail was a strategic aim of our 07-13 Rural Development Strategy. IRD Duhallow and local communities with LEADER support, is developing the first phase, a ‘music trail’ and was launched in 2013 where traditional Sliehluachra music was available for tourists and locals to hear in local pubs and heritage centres, every night of the week. The second phase, a physical trail is currently being developed which people can join at any location along the way to learn about the culture and history of the region.

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Communities across Duhallow have rich culture, traditions and heritage but understandably the Sliehluachra region located in Western Duhallow has brought a uniqueness to the region that sets it apart from everywhere else.

The Sliehluachra area is a bedrock of traditional Irish Music, Song and dance and possesses a rare quality and distinctiveness. The Brunn na Caraige Heritage Centre in Rockchapel has become a hub for the Sliehluachra Region with its music and dance being promoted, taught and preserved while lectures and talks are enlightening people, young and old on the history of the region and its people.

The Sliehluachra Cultural Trail was a strategic aim of our 07-13 Rural Development Strategy. IRD Duhallow and local communities with LEADER support, is developing the first phase, a ‘music trail’ and was launched in 2013 where traditional Sliehluachra music was available for tourists and locals to hear in local pubs and heritage centres, every night of the week. The second phase, a physical trail is currently being developed which people can join at any location along the way to learn about the culture and history of the region.
Social Enterprise

It is IRD Duhallow’s aim and objective to encourage and assist communities to develop and manage social enterprises which will provide local services and reduce unemployment. The establishment of a number of community enterprises has been the most significant development in rural Duhallow over the past 10 years, these projects are now very successful and have given rise to two new services which have been established and supported with the help of the LEADER programme.

Community Laundry

Our Communiy Laundry, Duhallow Community Laundry is our newest community enterprise and opened its doors on the 1st July 2014 in its newly refurbished premises in the James O’Keeffe Institute Newmarket. The service was established in response to issues raised by both the IRD Duhallow Carers Network and our SAQI Network, both highlighting the need for a service for our elderly, low income households and carers in Duhallow. This service helps to lessen the pressure on people and guarantees a fresh supply of clean linens, towels and clothes regardless of the weather. With an ageing population in Duhallow, a number of family carers under pressure to keep up with laundry demand and older people struggling to live independently in their own homes, the laundry provides the option of dropping their laundry into our premises in Newmarket or for those who are unable to travel, a collection and return service is also available. This new service compliments other community based enterprises such as the Warner Houses, the Rural Transport and Duhallow Community Food Services-Meals on Wheels, all of which are providing essential services to the elderly and low income families in our community. The laundry service will reach out to those who currently are finding it hard to cope.

The Laundry is staffed with participants from our Rural Social Scheme, CE and Tús Community Activation Schemes where they are learning new skills in customer service and garment care and providing an essential community service.

Duhallow REVAMP – Recycle, Restore, Repurpose, Reuse

This furniture recycling and re-use initiative which was established with 3 key partners, providing sheltered training and employment opportunities, helping our environment by reducing landfill and illegal dumping and providing quality up-cycled furniture at low cost to pensioners and low income families. For people who are marginalised and unemployed because of mental health difficulties and other reasons, this provides a great outlet whilst also supplying furniture to disadvantaged households who are living in frugal circumstances. The project is currently operating through the Tüs Community Activation Scheme with participants learning new skills in furniture repair and upcycling. However, IRD Duhallow’s Equality working group is hopeful that we will qualify for a Community Services Programme grant to create employment opportunities based on a Social Enterprise Model for those who need supported employment.

There is a growing green trend emerging for second hand unique products, reflecting an increased interest in eco-friendly pieces, particularly ones that are priced at an affordable cost. From budget buys to sought after vintage pieces, Duhallow REVAMP has something for everyone the community service operates a tiered pricing system whereby those in most need (which includes anyone receiving a means tested social welfare benefit, and students) are able to buy at a lower price than the general public. If people wish to buy at reduced prices, they must bring along evidence of their eligibility when they visit the showroom in the James O’Keeffe Institute, Newmarket.

Duhallow REVAMP accepts unwanted furniture of a reasonable standard from people who wish to kindly donate items such as chairs, tables, lockers, bosses of drawers, mirrors, wardrobes, shelving, unwanted flat packs, clean pieces of timber and selected household goods, kitchens and beds are also welcome. We also provide a refurbishment service for those who wish to have their old pieces restored.

This innovative project revitalises furniture giving it a new lease of life and actively promotes waste prevention, reuse and recycling, whilst providing training and skills opportunities for the unemployed.

LEADER

With LEADER 07-13 having the biggest LEADER budget in the history of the programme in Ireland, IRD Duhallow in conjunction with all of its communities, prepared its most ambitious strategic plan to date. We set out to develop Duhallow as a Living Countryside through the development of human, cultural, economic and environmental resources. The strategy has been extended as the Company strategy and other programmes have been associated in order to deliver on the targets, such as the LIFE+ programme for protecting habitats and eco systems.

We are now in the 23rd year of LEADER in Duhallow, and coming to the end of LEADER 07-13 which saw Duhallow with a budget of just over €0.3 million, three times the size of the previous programme with animation and capacity building underway from early 2008 we were ready to start committing to projects early in 2009 when the Government finally signed the contract.

From 2009 to early 2012, our budget was fully committed, and we had a long waiting list of projects anxiously seeking funding if it became available. We were therefore grateful to be awarded an additional €2.4 million in 2013 bringing our overall programme compliment to over €2.8 million.

Our LEADER targets have been realised through the measures of the programme which include Diversification into Non Agricultural Activities, Business Development, Community Training, Basic Services for the Economy & the Rural Community, Encouragement of Tourist Activities, Conservation & Upgrading of Rural Heritage, Villages, Renewal & Development, implementing Co-Operation Projects and Skills Acquisition & Promotion.

8 Farm Families, have received support to diversify and develop projects to supplement the farm income. These projects include 4 self catering accommodations, Ballimanue Organic Farm, Dunman Organic Farm and Kilguilkey Equestrian Centre.

52 local enterprises have received capital investment of over €1.8 million in this programme. Research shows that in Duhallow the business that have stood the test of time are in fact the LEADER funded enterprises. These small independent companies provide sustainable employment in small rural areas. There is also a major shift towards Social enterprises, where essential services are provided to the community and local jobs are made available. LEADER has provided support for the development of Duhallow Food Innovation Centre, an ambitious meals and bakery kitchen which will ultimately provide a service to the elderly, iders and sick of the wider region as well as employing a large term for the long employment opportunities.

IRD Duhallow has long focused its tourism strategy on the development of our natural resources concentrating on the development of walks, cycling, equestrian facilties and angling. 38 tourism projects have received €1.6 million from LEADER.

Since 2009, LEADER training courses catering for 2,000 Duhallow people, all run from the James O’Keeffe training centre in Newmarket have been delivered Training has focused on supporting enterprise through the mentor programme which has supported 126 local enterprises. We have also provided training on a number of aspects of running your own business. We placed significant emphasis on employment and progression through an array of training programmes including pathways to employment, professional management training, personal development and self employment options programme to name a few. We have provided annual training in youth leadership for all 5 secondary schools in the region.

In terms of culture and heritage, we have invested over €1.6 million in the development of our unique culture which includes developments in Bruach na Carrage in the heart of the renowned Slievena Luchra region and the Slievena Luchra Cultural Trail, Freemount Cultural Centre, Laharn Cultural Centre and a number of development in Newmarket including the refurbishment of the old Convent Pretty, Smokehouse and Agri museum.

A full list of our LEADER funded projects can be seen from pages 20-23.
LEADER Projects 07-13

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROJECT PROMOTER</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>€</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Freemount Community Playground Dev. Association</td>
<td>The development of a playground site.</td>
<td>€42,020.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dromtarriffe Parish Hall Association</td>
<td>The purchase of refurbishments in Dromtarriffe Parish Hall.</td>
<td>€54,540.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Castlemagner Community Centre</td>
<td>To refurbish Castlemagner hall to include rewiring, reroofing and extension.</td>
<td>€4,657.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bweeng Community Hall Committee</td>
<td>Developing an amenity area in Bweeng.</td>
<td>€37,256.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ballydesmond Community Centre Committee</td>
<td>The upgrading of the community hall.</td>
<td>€47,857.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ballydaly Hall Committee</td>
<td>To install a new heating system in the community hall.</td>
<td>€4,035.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stephen Walsh</td>
<td>The development of a self catering accommodation.</td>
<td>€39,900.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patricia &amp; Declan O' Riordan</td>
<td>The development of a self catering accommodation at Duarrigle Coach House.</td>
<td>€40,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Niall Moynihan</td>
<td>To develop an organic learning farm and shop.</td>
<td>€22,250.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Walsh</td>
<td>The development of a self catering accommodation.</td>
<td>€22,500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tintean Firewood</td>
<td>To develop and market Tintean Firewood.</td>
<td>€8,250.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Economy Working Group</td>
<td>To carry out an analysis and proposals for development for DCFS and Duhallow Farmers Market.</td>
<td>€4,410.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sapphire Signs</td>
<td>The capital works and equipment for the expansion and diversification.</td>
<td>€119,243.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Patricia O'Reilly</td>
<td>The purchase of exercise equipment for Cork Kangoo Jumps.</td>
<td>€12,194.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Millstreet Community Development Assoc. Ltd.</td>
<td>The development of E-centre.</td>
<td>€10,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maritime Tourism Ltd. &amp; Ballyhass Lakes</td>
<td>The development of a long term strategic plan &amp; CRM system.</td>
<td>€17,010.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leo Fitzgerald</td>
<td>The purchase of recording equipment for a music studio.</td>
<td>€15,045.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kiely Precision Engineering</td>
<td>To purchase equipment.</td>
<td>€6,631.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jerry Pat O'Leary</td>
<td>To develop a fitness studio in Millstreet.</td>
<td>€10,534.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>James Hickey</td>
<td>The purchase of equipment.</td>
<td>€21,059.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hickey Metering</td>
<td>To fund the capital investment and to purchase specialised vessels.</td>
<td>€46,025.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healy Sound Donoughmore</td>
<td>To purchase equipment.</td>
<td>€40,780.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Glide Surfboards</td>
<td>To purchase a surfboard shaping CNC machine.</td>
<td>€21,375.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fleur Daly</td>
<td>To purchase candle making equipment.</td>
<td>€20,796.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duhallow Innovation Centre</td>
<td>To develop a new childcare centre.</td>
<td>€58,796.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Duhallow Community Food Services</td>
<td>To develop a new childcare centre.</td>
<td>€58,796.00</td>
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**Total Funding:** €564,805
**LEADER Projects 07-13**

**PROJECT PROMOTER**

**DESCRIPTION**

**€**

Dr. Mary Joyce Leader

Publication of bilingual children's book

€4,276.00

Dromtarriffe Actively Retired

Publication of "How it Was, a Glimpse at Life and Traditions of Bygone Days in Rural Ireland"

€3,862.00

Dr. Mary Joyce Leader

Publication of bilingual children's book

€4,276.00

Rockchapel Comhaltas Ceoilteoiri Eireann

To fund the master class training on traditional music and dance

€19,870.00

Millstreet LTV2 Committee

The purchase of new equipment

€15,435.00

Environment WG

To deliver information seminars, lectures, workshops, training, demonstrations and environmental field trips

€9,081.00

Enterprise Development WG

To deliver programmes that will help participants to develop their business through Marketing online

€7,020.00

Enterprise Development WG

To develop and deliver two walking leader training programmes

€16,000.00

Enterprise Development WG

To run a Self Employment Opportunities Programme

€3,930.00

Employment & Training WG

To provide specific training to equip managers

€35,995.00

Employment & Training WG

To provide training & equipment for chainsaw course

€9,200.00

Employment & Training WG

To fund Duhallow Historic Graves Equipment & a training programme in Historic Graveyard surveying

€67,876.00

Employment & Training WG

To fund a Duhallow Digital Heritage & Tourism Course

€5,240.00

Employment & Training WG

To deliver training programmes to individuals of Employment Support Schemes or who are Unemployed

€42,502.00

Employment & Training WG

To deliver two Water Meter Installer Training Courses

€31,250.00

Community Development WG

To provide training for both the Domestic Violence & Bereavement Support Service

€14,100.00

Training & Information

Youth & Education Working Group Folklore project in Sliabh Luachra Primary Schools & Development of meeting room facilities

€63,159.00

SAOI Network

To host the Duhallow Bealtaine Festival

€22,500.00

Rockchapel Development Association

The History of the Parish of Rockchapel

€6,300.00

Laharn Community Action Ltd

Upgrading and landscaping works at Laharn Cross

€9,606.00

Kilcorney Community Council

The development of Kilcorney Community Feis

€1,362.00

Kanturk Town Twinning

Publication of book on history of twinning

€2,025.00

Kanturk Angling Club

The development of a weir on Dalua river and restoration of the Dalua River

€43,982.00

Kanturk & District Community Council

Publication of historical book on Kanturk "Where Dalua Flows its Flood Along" and refurbishment of Kanturk Trade Union Hall

€10,661.00

James O'Keeffe Memorial Foundation

Feasibility study and carpark development

€180,000.00

Inchemay Historical Society

Erection of War of Independence monument

€8,477.00

Gneeveguilla National School

To produce a Mural

€450.00

Freemount CCE

To redevelop and extend Freemount Heritage Centre and to fund sound & lighting of centre

€88,142.00

**TOTAL**

€10,373,712

**Annex 1**

**PROJECT PROMOTER**

**DESCRIPTION**

**€**

Employment & Training WG

Animating employment opportunities in Furniture Restoration

€17,933.00

Community Development WG

Provision of two Community Archivists and a Heritage Animator

€110,000.00

Skills Acquisition & Animation

Youth Education Program  Steering Committee

To conduct an assessment of YEP

€1,045.00

Youth & Education WG

Secret Music Festival Transnational Project

€34,443.00

St. Joseph's Foundation

The development of St Josephs Equestrian Centre

€35,000.00

Kerry Graveyards Steering Committee

Digitising of graveyards in Kerry

€1,000.00

Economic Development Steering Group

Tech. Study Economic Development Kerry & Duhallow

€30,000.00

Community Development WG

The development of the Duhallow 'Day of The Regions' Festivals

€80,000.00

Agriculture WG

Training for rural abattoirs

€8,500.00

Agriculture WG

To provide a stand at National ploughing championships

€600.00

Rockchapel CCE

To extend Bruach na Carraige Rockchapel

€49,308.00

Millstreet Community Council Ltd

To replace the existing cross on the top of Clara Mountain

€3,953.00

Meelin Community Centre Committee

To fund the revival of a 3 day festival

€4,375.00

Kanturk Velodrome Committee

Development of an off road cycle track

€149,863.00

Freemount Community Development

For the revival of the Freemount Community Festival

€4,583.00

Enterprise Development WG

To fund the exploration of new and emerging tourism markets in Duhallow

€30,000.00

Kerry Tourism Development

To develop a tourism brochure

€2,350.00

Enterprise Development WG

To promote the activities of the Kerry Tourism Development Project

€20,000.00

Enterprise Development WG

To develop a programme to improve the accessibility of tourism destinations

€5,200.00

Enterprise Development WG

To set up of a tourism information centre

€10,000.00

Enterprise Development WG

To develop a programme to promote the activities of Local Heritage Associations

€7,000.00

Lisheen Community Action

To fund a programme to promote the activities of local heritage associations

€5,000.00

Enterprise Development WG

To develop an evaluation and promotion programme to promote the activities of local heritage associations

€5,000.00

**TOTAL**

€13,140,300
Enterprise

Creating Jobs that Last
In order to create sustainable, viable jobs, a holistic approach must be taken to provide support to all elements of the business. The Enterprise Working group identifies three main areas to access a combination of soft supports such as training and mentoring, as well as grant aid for capital development and business growth to ensure that businesses are in the best position possible to generate employment.

Leader

The LEADER Programme has been a key driver of the economic development of Duhallow since its inception. Under LEADER 07-13 alone, this round of funding has supported over 390 businesses and in doing so, assisted 400 jobs. The LEADER ethos is to create jobs that last, promoting innovative enterprise that support the development of the rural economy. This is done across a number of ways including feasibility studies for new product development, such as that received by Night Owls, to Capital and Marketing Grant Aid provided at a rate of 75% to purchase equipment and develop opportunities.

Training is a key element of the development of rural enterprise and LEADER places a key role in training rural business owners.

Mary Poynter experienced the prototype for her feasibility study with Teddy Theatre from Van Hallen.

Training

One of the skills of any entrepreneur is to keep up to date with current thinking trends in business acumen. Recognising this, IRD Duhallow through the LEADER programme regularly organises training programmes to upskill business owners in best practice. Throughout 2013 and 2014 many courses were organised including Successful Selling, Online Marketing and Start Your Own Business Training. The Equality for Women measure also provided training specific to women and to encourage more female entrepreneurs.

Mentoring

The IRD Duhallow Business Training programme is a key element of our business support policy. Here, businesses can receive up to 10 hours one to one with an experienced mentor from our panel. All of our mentors are qualified professionals and provide impartial advice to our mentees. Since the commencement of the mentoring programme, over 130 businesses have received advice and guidance in the development of their business. Intuitive matching of mentors with promoters needs has proved very successful, and in some cases has resulted in local businesses successfully competing for national contracts and tender processes.

LCPD and Self Employment from the Live Register

Goal 3 of the Local Community Development Programme places a keen emphasis on supporting people to enter employment, and for many, the avenue chosen is that of self employment. Coupled with this, the Tús programme has proved a successful activation measure for people on the live register, opening them to the option of starting their own business. Last year, two such entrepreneurs were assisted in developing their own Community Enterprise.

IRD Duhallow works closely with the Enterprise Officer in the Department of Social Protection to support people who are long term unemployed to apply for the Back To Work Enterprise Allowance. Training is provided to those writing business plans, and regular Start Your Own Business Courses are organised in order to ensure that BTWEA Applicants can meet the qualifying criteria. In April of this year, the Enterprise Working Group welcomed the introduction of the BTWEA Support Grant, which replaced the Technical and Training Fund. This fund allows for BTWEA clients to apply for a grant of €3,500 across a number of start up costs such as insurance, marketing, equipment and training.

CRAFT

The Hands of Duhallow Annual Craft Fair, affords local craft workers with the opportunity to sell and display their goods and build up to the busy Christmas period. Funded through the LEADER programme, the Craft Fair creates a platform for low income craft workers to sell their goods and create brand awareness in the locality.

The 2013 Craft Fair saw 24 Exhibitors participate in the two day event, which was held in the James O’Keeffe Institute. The Christmas Wonderland featured a wide variety of products from jewellery, to art, woodcraft to knitwear, with something for all the family.

Supporting Rural Businesses

One of the key findings of Pat Spillane’s CEDRA Report was that post the 2008 recession, Ireland is seeing a two tier divide between rural and urban areas. Since then, the gap is continuing widening in rural areas. In particular businesses face an uphill battle to survive and find it extremely difficult to grow and develop. Not being from an ‘enterprise hub’ rural businesses become forgotten on the National agenda, and are encouraged to move towards large market towns with centralised infrastructure. This can be proven through a quick analysis of IDA and Enterprise Ireland investment in Duhallow over the last decade, which amounts to a sum total of zero. The Enterprise Working Group has grave concerns as to the low level of priority of rural businesses on a National scale.

13 – 14 Duhallow | Progress Report
Investing in Community Development

IRD Duhallow has taken on a central role in the co-ordination and leadership of creating a positive future for rural communities in Duhallow. Critical to this has been the foresight, commitment and leadership demonstrated by local volunteers, who all share a common belief and passion for their community. IRD Duhallow advocates what community development can offer to those who can potentially invest in it, and therefore, encourages and assists local volunteers to develop and deliver through a practice that is grounded in the core values and principles of Community Development. IRD Duhallow has assisted in developing social capital by supporting and enabling the vast number of community and voluntary groups and networks, by promoting collective action through encouraging and facilitating volunteerism and participation. There has been considerable investment in the broad and varied infrastructure of facilities and amenities throughout the region, which aims to improve the quality of life for the people living in Duhallow. LEADER has been key in the development of these regions with over €63m being invested in Duhallow’s rural economy in the refurbishment of 26 community halls. Our Rural Social Scheme and Tús programme have invested over €3m being invested in Duhallow’s rural economy in the refurbishment of 26 community halls. All elected representatives work towards a shared vision of developing vibrant, prosperous and sustainable communities.

Looking to the Future

The LEADER element of the Rural Development Programme budget for 2014-2020 has been announced. At €250 million Euro it equates to just over half of the current programme budget. While it is still too early to predict the final outcome of Minister Hogan’s proposals with regard to the alignment process, it is clear that in the process of determining priorities, the core principles of Community Development will be at the heart of decision-making. The support and engagement of the local communities will be crucial in developing a plan that will align with the core values and principles of Community Development.

Participative and Representative Democracy

Best practice is increasingly concerned with the devolution of power and control towards the citizen, with communities moving from being active partners in governance. IRD Duhallow strives to redress imbalances in power and facilitate effective decision making at local level. The success of the organisation has always been attributed to its voluntary board and strong community basis, with elected community representatives from its three regions - North Eastern, South Eastern and Western Duhallow. All elected representatives work towards a shared vision of developing vibrant, prosperous and sustainable communities.

Transnational Projects

For the past 2 years communities across Duhallow have embraced the concept of Discover Duhallow - A Day of the Region which captured the essence of life in the region and highlighted what it has to offer locals and visitors alike. This concept, which started as a weekend event in Germany as far back as 1999, has been embraced by 8 countries across Europe, showcasing what they have to offer in their rural communities.

For 2013 Discover Duhallow - A Day of the Region was rolled out alongside The Gathering, the experience gained by communities in the first year of Discover Duhallow proved to be a great advantage for planning The Gathering events. 2013 saw the initiative grow from its original 10 days to a full 6 weeks of events. The Gathering helped to reach out to families, friends and descendants who have moved away and invited them home during the Day of the Region. The efforts of the many different community groups within Duhallow were supported with the assistance of IRD Duhallow’s Rural Social Scheme and Tus participants who worked tirelessly to prepare for the competition.

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The Social Inclusion Programme in Duhallow has always been an important one, providing a means to support target groups including disadvantaged communities. Since 1994, through the social inclusion programme, IRD Duhallow has been able to develop supports for the most vulnerable in our society, including bereavement support, domestic violence support, supports for our vulnerable elderly through SAO network, the focal farmer Programme for Low Income Farm Families, Towards Occupation for people with mental ill health, carers support, support for lone parents, education support for people with learning difficulties including dyslexia, and support for early school leavers. While the level of funding in this programme has never been huge, the significance of the programme to the region cannot be underestimated. Through animation and capacity building, our staff have been able to work with the most marginalised and disadvantaged communities in Duhallow. The programme has also afforded us the opportunity to lever additional funding to the region including The Equality for Women Measure, The Artists 6 Programme for Low Income Smallholders, the Towards Occupation Programme for People with mental ill health, Dormant Accounts Funding for Carers and Benefit funding for the elderly to name a few. Even the onset of the Rural Social Scheme for low income smallholders has its origins in the social inclusion programme. Through the work of the LCDCP staff, we have made LEADER accessible to many target groups. The Social Inclusion Programme has named and helped our rural society deal with issues that are often hidden including suicide, bereavement, mental ill health, the plight of carers and lone parents and the social and economic problems faced byurally isolated low income smallholders.

The Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme

The Government have made a decision that SICAP will be publicly tendered through a two stage process. Stage one is a suitability assessment of interested parties and in stage two candidates selected by Pobal for inclusion on the tender lists will be issued with a formal invitation to tender document. IRD Duhallow completed stage one in July and we await the outcome of this. The full SICAP specification and framework is currently undergoing development by the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government in consultation with Pobal and requires formal approval by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform. The SICAP is a local social inclusion programme focused on the most marginalised in Irish society. It aims to tackle poverty and social exclusion through local engagement and partnership between disadvantaged individuals, community organisations, public sector agencies and will operate across the country. SICAP has three goals:

Goal 1: To support and resource disadvantaged communities and marginalised target groups to engage with relevant local and national stakeholders in identifying and addressing social inclusion and equality issues.

Goal 2: To support individuals and marginalised target groups experiencing educational disadvantage so that they can participate fully, engage with and progress through lifetime learning opportunities through the use of community development approaches.

Goal 4: To engage with marginalised target groups/individuals and residents of disadvantaged communities who are unemployed but who are not fully in mainstream employment service providers, or who are eligible to ST4 to move them closer to the labour market and improve work readiness, and support them in accessing employment and self-employment and creating social enterprise opportunities.
Equality and Social Inclusion

The Equality Working Group recognises that successive years of austerity has undermined the independence of people, as support services are severely curtailed or removed altogether. With financial burdens, unemployment, out migration of friends and family, those who are left behind often feel even more excluded and isolated than ever before. Some are not able to afford to participate in community events so which puts increasing pressures on the family and individual mental health. While initiatives like those promoted and undertaken by the working group through LCDP, alleviate some of the issues for people, this remains a constant challenge for the Equality Working Group. However they continue in their endeavour empowered by the knowledge that equality of opportunity can be achieved by making sure that everyone is supported to have access to resources, decision making and to be recognised, valued and respected when supports are not put in place it usually results in exclusion even if this is not intended because people in marginalised situations do not feel confident or know that they can become part of mainstream groups.

Supporting Integration

IRD Duhallow has conducted initiatives, activities and projects designed to facilitate the participation of legally resident migrants, as outline in Goal 2 of our LCDP Programme.

The SWI Integration Task Group (ITG) of Kerry County Development Board was established in 2007 and under the guidance of our own CEO Maura Walsh as chairperson; this Task Group has successfully developed the Kerry’s Integration Strategy 2010-2012. This strategy while ambitious has been successful on a number of fronts, namely raising awareness, supporting the development of targeted supports and facilitating networking amongst all parties. The funding for this task force was phased out in the past two years but the group decided to extend the timeframe of the strategy by 2 years to the end of 2014, focusing on collaborative efforts based on the principal of equality of outcome, to keep integration high up on everyone’s agenda. A successful poster campaign to highlight the positive aspects of cultural diversity, was implemented this year with Minister Jimmy Deenihan presenting the winners with their prizes at a ceremony hosted by Kerry County Development Board at the Department of Arts, Culture and the Gaeltacht in Killarney.

IRD Duhallow still has a substantial population of legally resident immigrants, IRD Duhallow’s work and that of the local communities has been significant and successful in promoting inter-culturalism, tolerance and inter-ethnic respect.

Language continues to be one of the key barriers which hampers integration. IRD Duhallow in conjunction with the Cork Employment and Training Board (CETB) is providing local, accessible English language classes. The ability to speak English will allow the participants to interact better within the community in which they live and work to avail of enhanced employment opportunities.

The LCDP programme supported the Love & Care for People, Inspire Kidz Club project festive fun day in December for the recreation and enjoyment of children living in Direct Provision in Drishane Castle in Millstreet. Also through the LCDP Programme IRD Duhallow held Multi-cultural Christmas events in Rathmore, Kanturk and Millstreet in 2013 where 180 children and their families participated. Once again, RSS participants, both current and retired provided Santa and Mrs. Claus.

Disability

IRD Duhallow’s overall aim is to support equal participation of people with disabilities in all aspects of society. Every effort is made to ensure that programmes held are open and accessible to all. It has been our aim to increase participation of people with a disability and to further this aim, installed a stairs lift in the new refurbished basement area of the James O’Keeffe building, which will allow easy access to wheelchair users in to house facilities such as training and the community laundry.

IRD Duhallow in conjunction with Aware is seeking to re-run a six week Life Skills Programme aimed at individuals who are experiencing mild to moderate forms of stress, anxiety or depression to help them to manage their feelings, and to help them cope with life’s challenges. The course was over subscribed and a second one will be held in the Autumn.

Domestic Violence

IRD Duhallow, Domestic Violence Support Initiative has provided a support service through a helpline and one to one support to those experiencing domestic abuse. Our service is one of the few in Ireland, which supports both men and women. Trained volunteers, who willingly give their time, to help those in need deliver the service. We also continue to provide information workshops on recognising and dealing with abuse in the relationship/abuse stage to transition year students in our local secondary schools. These workshops have proved very popular with students, and provides a positive environment for them to actively engage in discussions.

Domestic Abuse continues to exist in all communities, often hiding in the shadows of the family. For the last 3 years the IRD Duhallow Domestic Violence Support Initiative has provided a support service through a helpline and one to one support to those experiencing domestic abuse. Our service is one of the few in Ireland, which supports both men and women.

Palm

Being a lone parent is increasingly difficult and the number of one parent families is rising. Census 2011 shows that the number of lone parent households in Duhallow is higher percentage than in the rest of Cork County. The Duhallow PAL group is a peer support network for lone parents, which meets bi-monthly to organise and facilitate education events and seminars, as well as family outings for lone parent families.

Information on training, upskilling and re-entry to education is provided as well as information on a range of services available in the region.
Employment and Training

Job Centre
IRD Duhallow set up the Jobs Centre to meet the needs of people in Duhallow who require assistance seeking employment and also for employers who need assistance in recruiting employment positions. From our experience to date the holistic approach is important to help people overcome their barriers and building their confidence to re-join the labour market. Claim need focused supports that are available both on a one to one and group setting. In the absence of a full time Local Employment Service we provide jobs placement, career advice, assistance with writing CVs and cover letters, interview preparation including mock interviews and interview skills which are increasing in demand as the job environment is increasingly competitive.

Job Path
The Department of Social Protection have designed a new programme to deliver employment supports and activation to the long term unemployed (over 12 months) and those most distanced from the labour market. The Department advised the market that it was considering the potential of contracting third party providers of employment services. IRD Duhallow together with the other Local Development Companies North Tipperary, LEADER, South Tipperary LEADER, NEDA, South Kerry Partnership, Ballyhoura Development, Clare Local Development, Laois Leader Partnership, Offaly Development and Wicklow LEADER partnership submitted a tender under the Consortium name Traio Services. The ten Local Development Companies that make up this consortium have over 20 years experience of working with the long term unemployed in urban, peri-urban and rural settings their in-depth knowledge of the entire region is unrivalled. Indeed, many of the unemployed across all categories will have had engagement with the consortium already. Their CEOs and Managers have extraordinarily long service, over 25 years in many cases and averaging 15 years, illustrating their commitment, consistency and loyalty to the economic development of the region. It is expected that the winning contracts will be announced in July.

Applying International Best Practice - Dual Vocational Educational Training (VET) system in Germany
The Employment and Training Working Group place a huge value on the integration of individuals into the working environment. With a long history and record of achievements, we are always looking to improve the value of this experience in real terms both for the employer and the intern. This year we participated in the Dual VET system in Germany an initiative in Learning in the Workplace.

The study visit introduced us to greater potential of learning in the workplace and through the enterprise network, we plan on creating more awareness to businesses on the benefits of using apprentices for training purposes, as they are trained in the competencies required to your specific business and industry.

Emerging Leaders Development Programme
IRD Duhallow is always looking to invest in the future through training. In January 2014 we ran a training programme for potential business leaders in our community. The Emerging Leaders Development Programme was a practical 3-month fully supported programme exploring how to be at your best in your current role and prepare yourself to undertake a more senior leadership role.

This programme was about assessing their current capabilities against recognised leadership competencies, challenge their strategic thinking, developing their ability to influence and motivate others. Recognising opportunities for growth through relationship management, being a dynamic cohort bringing ongoing support, enthusiasm and vision to those organisations.

Many of the participants hold managerial roles within the community enterprises in the region and the training will support the efficient running of these facilities as well as promoting strategic development of the enterprise and supporting the voluntary board members.

Adult and Second Chance
The Working Group is very aware that for individuals to face multiple disadvantages the ability to access, participate and receive the benefits of lifelong learning is paramount. Therefore meeting the needs of those in our communities who wish to return to education will require an integrated and multi-dimensional approach. Participation must be encouraged and where there are difficulties due to financial constraints then investment must be made. In 2013 ten higher education grants were granted through LCDP. Additionally IRD Duhallow funded 2 individuals to participate in part-time degrees in Rural Development through LEADER funding.

Benefit Ill

Computer Training
Technology change has continued with speed over the past number of years and is having a profound impact on our everyday lives. The digital divide continues to grow not only between the urban and rural areas but also between the generations, so it is more important than ever for individuals to continually improve their knowledge and capabilities to communicate and operate in this technological age. IRD Duhallow was delighted to be in a position to provide training to over 169 through the Benefit Ill basic computer training programme. The participants learned how to use a computer proficiently, how to set up an email account, send an email and an attachment, be able to log on online banking, use the Skype for uploading and accessing digital photography. The feedback from this training programme was extremely positive and greatly assisted people in their everyday lives, even to simply communicate with family and to interact with grand children.

Information Seminars
The Working Group recognises that seminars are a strategic means of keeping our aims and objectives relevant and in a sense organic, evolving in real time to the needs of the communities in the Duhallow region. A seminar was held for local enterprises and employers in order to allow them to network but also to provide them with information on the various job schemes available to them such as JobsBridge and JobsPlus, which can have a positive implication for both the employer and the individual.
Youth and Education

Shaping the Future

Supporting the integration of young people in rural areas is a major priority of IRD Duhallow and youth is considered horizontally across all integrated programmes. To ensure a more effective targeting of young people, IRD Duhallow’s Youth and Education working group has highlighted the need to encourage greater involvement of young people in preparation for the next LEADER programming period 2014-2020. While many projects in the past have targeted rural youth, those that are designed and implemented directly by young people themselves are less prevalent. A series of consultations have taken place since January 2014 with over 250 young people representing all secondary schools, primary schools, youth groups and clubs, to ensure that the needs of young people are articulated in a coordinated way.

Youth Film

The young people of the region approached us and suggested making a YouTube video to show the impact LEADER has had in Duhallow. The project included almost 500 young people from the Duhallow and showcased many of the LEADER projects which have been funded across the region. This vibrant and energetic clip also featured a Sminky Short created by local Youth Film.

Youth and Education

IRD Duhallow’s Youth and Education working group aims to empower young people to develop their own abilities and attributes, to think for themselves, to make things happen and to contribute to their own communities. Since 2011, 180 Second Level students from the 5 Secondary Schools in Duhallow have successfully completed the 3 day ‘Your Turn’ Youth Leadership Programme which was funded through IRD Duhallow’s 2007-2013 LEADER Programme. The students were challenged to think in new ways about real life issues and decision making processes i.e. local governance. Furthermore, these young people are enabled to appreciate the diversity and strengths of the rural communities in which they live and are energised to play a much more central role in contributing to positive solutions and shaping their futures. Young leaders from Duhallow also attended a regional strand of this programme facilitated by the National Youth Council of Ireland where they will have an opportunity to voice their opinions and ideas on work, education, training and preparation for jobs, internships and apprenticeships, youth enterprise (skills, challenges and opportunities) and Education.

Literacy Support Programme

Goal 2 of the LCDP Programme aims to prevent early school leaving. The working group believe that education and training are essential and the quality of life in rural areas, amongst young people. This vibrant and energetic clip also featured a Sminky Short created by local Youth Film.

The Literacy Support Programme

Running for over a decade, the literacy support programme, has had great success in preventing early school leaving. There are a number of strands to this programme, in which almost 50 children participated in over the 2013/2014 term.

Literacy Support Workshops

Our weekly classes are given by tutors registered with the Dyslexia Association of Ireland and focus on supporting children with reading, writing, spelling, memory work and sequencing.

Touch Type Read and Spell

TTR is a specially devised computer training programme, which applies a mix learning approach, teaching children how to Touch Type, and spell using the Alpha and Omega spelling method.

Laugh and Learn Summer Camp

The local and Laugh and Learn Summer Camp integrates learning and fun. Aimed specifically at children with literacy difficulties, these week long camps, held annually in the month of July see children participate in literacy classes, but also structured play activities. These are specially designed to put into practice the work in the classroom, such as baking, but supporting children by reading off a recipe, or a written treasure hunt.

Careers Exhibition

IRD Duhallow hosted its annual Career Exhibition in the Ede Quin Hall, Kanturk for all Secondary Schools in Duhallow. Young people were facilitated to explore different education and training options with a broad range of Third Level Institutes, Universities of Technology, Agricultural Colleges and Further Level Training Colleges in attendance. The representatives from these educational bodies were able to answer the many different queries which the students had in relation to entry requirements and course specific details. A career counsellor was also there to provide guidance on career paths.

Public Speaking

Research indicates that public speaking builds skills that young people can apply in a variety of home, school, and community settings; helping them navigate their worklife and family roles that they will assume as adults. IRD Duhallow has supported both new and existing volunteer led youth clubs in Duhallow through small scale LCDP grants.

Youth Clubs

Youth clubs have something both unique and valuable to offer young people in Duhallow as they are in a pivotal position to contribute to the personal, social and educational development of young people. The personal skills developed by the young person as a member of the youth club empowers them to become involved in other areas of their lives including their own communities. IRD Duhallow has supported both new and existing volunteer led youth clubs in Duhallow through small scale LCDP grants.

Youth and Education

Boaxing Club

The Duhallow Boxing Club has grown from strength to strength since IRD Duhallow initiated it in 2011. The club now boasts almost 200 members, and has achieved many regional and provincial titles, an outstanding feat for a club only in its infancy. Supported by the LCDP programme, boxing provides an engaging, dedicated sport for children, and has been proven to combat anti social behaviour. Boxing pushes out to the places, that other sports don’t reach, it engages with young people on their own terms and recognises that frustration and aggression that is so often the hallmark of teenage years. Crucially, boxing, gives young people a sense of worth and self-esteem.

Your Turn Youth Leadership Programme

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Equality for Women

Over the past 17 years, since IRD Duhallow established the Women and Childcare Working Group, it has also supported the IRD Duhallow Women’s Forum which now represents 17 women’s groups which we have helped to establish in the region. The Working Group has a pivotal role in improving women’s access to education, training and personal development in preparation for employment, in supporting women who are undertaking entrepreneurial activity and supporting women’s advancement in their employment, including into decision-making roles. The Women’s Forum has provided these groups an opportunity to share information and ideas as a collective, this collaboration and networking has successfully built confidence and empowered the participants to engage as active and equal citizens. It is affiliated to the National Women’s Council.

The Working Group continues to support the “Turn off Red Light Campaign” to end prostitution and sex trafficking in Ireland. Last year we welcomed the publication of ‘Discussion on Future Direction of Prostitution Legislation’ which was launched by the Department of Justice and Equality. This paper is a crucial first step and was followed up in June 2013 by the Joint Oireachtas Committee’s report ‘Review of the Legislation on Prostitution in Ireland’. The campaign now has a combined membership of over 1.6 million who are committed to helping protect vulnerable women and children from the dangers of prostitution and trafficking.

Equality for Women Measure

IRD Duhallow was awarded funding through the Equality for Women Measure (EWM) under Strand 1 – and in June 2013 we received further funding under the new programme, which has just come to an end in April 2014. This new programme was allowed for on development with previous participants while also widening the catchment to women who had previously not engaged in this programme. A wide variety of individual training courses were delivered through this initiative which was tailored specifically to the needs of women in Duhallow. The courses included Supervisory Management, Grow Your Own training for beginners, Personal Development and Occupational First Aid. This specific training provided an opportunity for participants to enhance their access to the labour market. They received an understanding and awareness of lifelong learning and the training also provided learners with the skills and tools necessary to help develop in their personal lives. An important aspect of the training was how they challenged negative thinking and issues relating to self esteem which resulted in increasing participants confidence levels. The feedback received on all aspects of the training from the 60 women that participated was positive.

Training

Funding received from LEADER and LCDP has given the Working Group great scope to develop programmes to encourage more women to engage as active and equal citizens especially those disempowered within rural areas. It was agreed to continue certain elements which were seen to have had the greatest impact on our objectives. The ten week Upcycling/Recycling training provided a forum for creative thinking, learning new skills and goal setting whilst building self-esteem. The Working Group recognises that the pressures of modern life can sometimes impact negatively on the lives of women and their feeling of wellbeing and fulfilment, particularly where they strive to combine work and family responsibilities. The campaign to promote a positive image of mental health and the need to look after an individual’s mental health is another area in which training was provided. A Wellness Recovery Action Planning (WRAP) programme was delivered to 11 women from the Duhallow region in order to provide the participants an opportunity to examine their own mental well-being and to develop a series of techniques which would allow them to gain greater control over their own lives. Following on from this training activity, a life skills programme in conjunction with AMREI has been delivered to 25 participants both male and female from a variety of backgrounds. This initiative was delivered over a six week period and not alone do these programmes assist participants to look after their mental health and well-being, but it helps in the removal of the stigma associated with mental ill-health and helps to normalise the idea that mental health, just like physical health, needs to be looked after.

Childcare

The availability of quality and affordable childcare is a constant topic of discussion. This programme, funded by the Childcare Capital Programme 2013, has been a significant contribution to the childcare sector in the Duhallow region.

Newmarket Afterschools

Newmarket Afterschool is now 9 years in operation it provides a top quality wrap around service with primary school children being collected from school daily by a passenger assistant on Duhallow Area Rural Transport, receiving a home cooked nutritious dinner along with one to one help and supervision with their homework. For many children the extra support with homework has proved hugely beneficial. Parents are assured that their children are cared for in a safe environment, which allows them the opportunity to take up employment or partake in education and training courses. This service is essential for parents in rural areas who otherwise would be excluded from participation in work or training.

Equality for Women

Information Seminars

A number of seminars were held during the year highlighting the celebration of another great woman indentified in our “Mna Duhallow” honours list. The late Julia Clifford is a renowned fiddle player from Slieva Luachra, who was honoured through a night of music and notable presentations themed on the important role of women in traditional Irish music, which is often overlooked. Presentations and musical pieces on the night came from a wide range of renowned guests including “flautist” Billy Clifford (son of the late Julia Clifford), Dr. Matt Cianitch who provided an insight into what makes traditional Irish music so special and unique in the Slieva Luachra area, Firemount fiddle player and scholar Geraldine O’Callaghan and Supreme Piper Con Houlihan of Cullen pipe band Judy O’Leary introduced the hugely successful event to a full house.

Julie Clifford’s Legacy lives on through the many budding players that continue to play for music.

Newmarket Afterschool

Graduates of the Supervisory Management Training which was funded by the Equality for Women Measure.

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Mental Health and Towards Occupation Programme

Mental health concerns everybody. We attain it through the attachments and the supportive relationships we form at each stage of our personal development, through learning to cope with challenging and difficult aspects of life, and finding ways to belong to and to contribute to others, in line with our core values and aspirations (Vision for Change (2006)). Those who suffer from mental ill-health often experience social exclusion, discrimination and prejudice leading to isolation. Very often the stigma associated with mental ill-health impacts on educational attainment and ultimately employment opportunities. For many who experience mental ill-health, their difficulties will resolve themselves through support and care from families and friends. For others, more intensive support and resources are required and the community is recognised as a key resource in supporting those experiencing mental ill-health (Vision for Change (2006)).

Towards Occupation Programme

In response to a recognised need to support those with mental ill-health back into employment, the aim of the Towards Occupation Programme is to facilitate and encourage those in the community who are very distant from the labour market, providing them with education and training opportunities and increasing their chances of progression opportunities. The free and confidential programme adopts an activation approach and is focused on re-integrating participants into education, training and employment as well as voluntary work or other directions. The TO programme helps participants to identify their personal occupation requirements/goals and the pathways to achieving them and assists participants to access as independent a life as possible. Participants explore a range of specifically tailored training opportunities including furniture recycling, upholstery, horticulture, cookery, life skills and IT.

Limerick and Clare Education and Training Boards are project partners in terms of co-operation and provision of supports. This partnership approach facilitates an individualistic integrated approach and provides participants with a broader range of opportunities and linkages. An independent programme evaluation was completed in July 2012 and was launched in September 2013.

The evaluation reveals that the Towards Occupation programme has proven itself to be a valuable, cost effective, and positive method of re-engaging those in our communities who feel most isolated and vulnerable. The report highlights the progression of a number of programme graduates who have moved into further education and employment as a result of the programme. In addition, it discloses the fact that the programme has provided participants with a sense of purpose and a reason to get out of bed in the mornings. Very often this small first step is the most crucial in the journey to recovery.

The programme is in existence since 2006 and is now delivered by IRD Duhallow and four other Local Development Companies in Cork and Limerick through an innovative combination of training, guidance and support. The Department of Social Protection, HSE and the Cork, Limerick and Clare Education and Training Boards are project partners in terms of co-operation and provision of supports. This partnership approach facilitates an individualistic integrated approach and provides participants with a broader range of opportunities and linkages. An independent programme evaluation was completed in July 2012 and was launched in September 2013.

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why it is so important that people exercise their right to vote. Partnership ran Active Citizenship workshops to inform voters on the day to day running of a number of insulation and better energy schemes and works as part of the Community Services Team.

The Better Energy Warmer Homes Scheme is funded by the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) and the Community Services Programme (CSP). IRD Duhallow is one of 30 community based organisations (CBO’s) delivering this scheme throughout the country. Our Warmer Homes Scheme is now in its ninth year and at the end of 2013 we had insulated 2,781 houses across North Cork and East Kerry. Our 2014 contract is to retrofit a further 195 homes. To qualify for this scheme you must be in receipt of Fuel Allowance or Family Income Supplement or Job Seekers Allowance. Homes must be owner occupied and constructed before 2000.

New ventures requirements were introduced by SEAI late in 2013 whereby all homes must have ventilation installed prior to committing insulation works.

Local Employment

At any one time there can be up to 18 people working on the Warmer Homes Scheme. IRD Duhallow provides skilled and trainee participants for the Rural Social Scheme (RSS) and the Community Employment (CE) Scheme and for the Social Activation Initiative who work with teams insulating attics and cavity walls. We also receive funding from the Community Services Programme (CSP) that enables us to employ a coordinator and 5 full time staff. Training continues to be a vital element in the development of our service including manual handling, working at height training, mobile tower, scaffold and Safe Pass for all installers.

Area & Community Based Programmes

Following on from the successful Area and Community Based Pilots in 2012, SEAI mainstreamed programmes in 2013. IRD Duhallow successfully applied for funding under the Area Based Programme for four projects in Barry-Murphy’s Place Neenmarna, Woodview Drive Mallow, Dhesive View Millstreet and Slabhill Luadhra Gneeveguilla, which saw the retrofit of 120 homes insulated for Better Energy. These applications were in partnership with Cork & Kerry County Councils and Mallow Town Council. IRD Duhallow acted as project manager for each scheme and also carried out the insulation and ventilation works along with post BER works for each project. Other works included chimney draught limiters, boiler replacement, window and door upgrades. These projects were carried out across a mix of 60 private and Local Authority owned houses.

Under the 2013 Communities programme, IRD Duhallow together with Erinova and EPS Energy successfully applied for funding for a mix of 5 community halls/ schools in Duhallow, and IRD Duhallow’s installers carrying out the insulation works.

National Quality Standards

In 2013, we received certification from the National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI) for our Bonded Bead Cavity Wall Insulation. In September 2013, SEAI introduced Building Energy Rating (BERs) to each house through the Warmer Homes Scheme. These BERs were delivered in house by our trained BER Assessor.

IRD Duhallow completed the implementation process in 2013 to achieve ISO Certification for our insulation services. Following an external audit we successfully achieved certification that year.

The Integrated Management System includes the ISO9001 (Quality), ISO14001 (Environmental) and OHSAS 18001 (Safety).

Kerrigan Shanahan Newman (KSN) is contracted by SEAI to oversee the quality assurance aspects of the Warmer Homes Scheme. Since the introduction of the new ventilation requirements in September 2013, we have achieved a 100% pass rate from these inspections.

Other Funding Programmes

In response to the needs of people in the region IRD Duhallow submitted a proposal to SEAI earlier this year for funding under the BEHMS to install further measures such as boiler replacement, window and door replacement, internal dry lining etc to qualifying households. These works are similar to services we have delivered under the Area Based Programmes and we await the decision of SEAI.
and life skills training. Our transport services to Cope Foundation in Cork and DART continues to be a great support for people with mental ill health who are partaking in various workshops and training programmes. Without transport, it is a lifeline to those who are rural and isolated and vulnerable.

**Key Achievements to Date**

DART has transported over 400,000 passengers since 2003 and operates services which are relevant, affordable, accessible and available to all communities. The key success is their door to door collection, passenger assistants on board to ensure that people with mobility difficulties are not excluded from travelling, the flexibility of the service and its commitment to continually respond to the needs of the community.

This is a necessity for people living in rural areas and over 70% of services run by DART are door to door. By sub-contracting DART’s routes to local operators such as bus owners, DART has sustained 17 local transport operators in Duhallow, which employ over 28 drivers and has generated over €3m in the Duhallow Economy. DART is being funded under the Community Services Programme for the staffing of a Co-ordinator, Administration Staff and Passenger Assistants.

So as DART ceases and CART (Cork Area Rural Transport) begins let us hope that the department’s rationalisation will deliver at least the same service to those most isolated can continue. The delays in establishing the county wide structure, has meant that contracts should rationalise from 6 to 3 groups. In February 2014, it was announced that the department’s rationalisation will deliver at least the same service to those most isolated can continue. So as DART ceases and CART (Cork Area Rural Transport) begins let us hope that the department’s rationalisation will deliver at least the same service to those most isolated can continue.

**Future of the Rural Transport Programme**

The then, Junior Minister at the Department of Transport Alan Kelly announced on Tuesday 9th of July 2013 a proposal to reduce RTIP Groups from 36 to 18 groups with one of these 36 groups to cover the whole Cork County. Participants in training programmes for the staffing of a Co-ordinator, Administration Staff and Passenger Assistants.

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**Community Employment Scheme**

Paddy O’Connor C.E. Supervisor

Paddy has been the IRD Duhallow C.E. Supervisor for over thirteen years and has gained valuable experience in adding participants to get the most from their C.E. placement. Paddy has responsibility for supporting the twenty-eight participants while as Lafave as liaising with the communities to ensure optimum support for their projects.

IRD Duhallow’s C.E. Scheme

Over the past twelve months IRD Duhallow has seen a huge increase in the number of people enquiring about vacancies on the Community Employment Scheme. As a result we made an application for additional placements and were successful in getting an extra ten places which brings our total to twenty-eight participants.

CE provides a unique opportunity for participants to develop their skills and abilities while undertaking valuable work in the community setting. The scheme is ideal for the long term unemployed who have been out of the workforce for some time and in need to build up their self confidence. It is also useful to people who have lost their jobs and need to return to the workforce to re-enter the labour force. Our current CE scheme participants work across the areas of Dromtarriffe, Rathcoole, Boherbue, Ballydaly, Kilconny, Bantry, and Newmarket, contributing to the overall growth and development of our vibrating community amenities.

Transport and Community Services Programme and liaises with community groups and consultants on transport needs.

**DART Services**

Transport Services have developed substantially, since its establishment in 2003, DART has seen a phenomenal growth with passenger numbers increasing from 3,274 on 4 services, to over 30,000 per annum on its current 47 services. The availability of the transport promotes independence and enables those living in rural communities to access essential facilities and services such as the pharmacy, doctors, dentists and others whilst supporting the viability and economy of rural services in the Duhallow community. The provision of an efficient rural transport system has also supported independent living for pensioners, those with disabilities and young parents from rural areas who have been able to continue to work or undertake training courses, content in the knowledge that their children have safely been transported to their local school after school services.

In the last year DART has delivered services for many people with mobility issues who are partaking in various workshops and training programmes. providing a service to areas in the community and again without access to transport they would be unable to benefit from these supports as many of them do not have access to public transport. Without transport, people with mental ill health, like so many others are left at home isolated and segregated in their own community. DART continues to be a great help to low income families in the region, with children in both primary and secondary education by providing a transport service to ensure their children have access to their educational and life skills training. The transport services to Cape Foundation in Cork and Mallow allows more training and employment opportunities for the people attending the Duhallow area.

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First pioneered in Duhallow in 2004 as one of the pilot locations for the scheme, the Rural Social Scheme (RSS) celebrates its 10th anniversary this July with a decade of resounding success in the region. The seeds for RSS were first sown in 2002 in response to a clear need which was identified in rural areas, to provide income support to low income families of farmers and fisherpersons who are in receipt of specified, primarily, long-term social welfare payments. A stakeholder group, chaired by Mauro Welsh, CEO IRD Duhallow astutely shaped a scheme that was flexible and ‘farmer friendly’ to facilitate these farmers to continue to work their farms on a part-time basis.

The RSS has always been a cornerstone of agriculture in the EU. They play a significant role in supporting rural employment and contributing to territorial development. They are important for production, particularly in the form of local specialist products and provide important social, cultural and environmental services. One of the key characteristics of the RSS is that they have proven attractive for many participants: they are flexible working arrangements which allow participants to meet the demands of their busy farm enterprises. The design of working arrangements permits participants to actively meet their time obligations while not allowing their farm practices to suffer. Another distinguish feature of RSS delivery in Duhallow is the synergy and complementarity that permits participants to actively meet their time obligations while not allowing their farm practices to suffer. Another distinguishing feature of RSS delivery in Duhallow is the synergy and complementarity that permits participants to actively meet their time obligations while not allowing their farm practices to suffer.

Today, the RSS in Duhallow continues to build on its achievements, for the future through the hard work and dedication of the 58 participants and 3 Supervisors. The scheme has gone above and beyond the initial target expectations producing an array of benefits for individual RSS participants, their families, local communities and indeed for the State both national and local. A Social Cost Benefit Analysis Report of the RSS which was carried out in 2007 estimated that for every 1 Euro of actual costs to the exchequer, €2.89 of quantifiable benefits are generated. The scheme has provided the crucial difference between vibrant, active and engaged volunteerism and weakened, demoralised countryside. The scheme has provided the crucial difference between vibrant, active and engaged volunteerism and weakened, demoralised countryside. The scheme has provided the crucial difference between vibrant, active and engaged volunteerism and weakened, demoralised countryside. The scheme has provided the crucial difference between vibrant, active and engaged volunteerism and weakened, demoralised countryside. The scheme has provided the crucial difference between vibrant, active and engaged volunteerism and weakened, demoralised countryside.

Integration across employment schemes is a key part of IRD Duhallow’s strategy to promote peer learning. Projects such as the ‘seaweed’ great example of RSS, Tús and CE participants working side-by-side.

**Farm Income Support**
In accordance with a farm income review, the average family farm income in 2013 was just €21,400 compared to €32,200 for the average industrial earnings (IFA, 2014). When contrasted with the average of €71,000 earned by RSS participants, there leaves little doubt that income from farming alone will not be adequate to sustain these small farmers in the Irish countryside. The RSS offers a viable and realistic off-farm option to strengthen and stabilise the overall income of the farm household. A high percentage of farmers on RSS are in their forties and fifties — which deem them the age threshold for the 25% top-up of single farm payments and high rates of grants etc. For those who are rearing families, rising costs and fees of school and third level provides added financial strain. There was a notable decline in the attractiveness of farming as a career for most of the last decade. However, this decline has been arrested, as evidenced by the increase in numbers of young farmers in Duhallow undertaking agricultural education and training in recent years. This is an encouraging development for the future of agriculture in Duhallow.

Who are our Participants?

- **Small farmers - the Custodians of the Countryside and the Cornemote of Agriculture in the EU.**

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Office volunteers who maintain the silt traps in newly open drains, inserting cattle troughs with solar pumps, promoting peer learning. Projects such as the ‘seaweed’ great example of RSS, Tús and CE participants working side-by-side.

Rural Social Scheme

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**Rural Social Scheme**

- Con Guiney working at home on his farm.
- Tony Angell operating the tracked machine at port of the Duhallow Agri Museum Annacotty Project.
- Silt traps in newly open drains, inserting cattle troughs with solar pumps.
- Integration across employment schemes is a key part of IRD Duhallow’s strategy to promote peer learning. Projects such as the ‘seaweed’ great example of RSS, Tús and CE participants working side-by-side.

**Walking Tourism Development**
Duhallow boasts an array of walking and hiking options for any outdoor pursuit enthusiasts. IRD Duhallow administers the Walks Scheme for the Duhallow Way Walk which stretches 29km East to West through the region. The Walks Scheme provides funding for 24 local private landholders who cooperate to maintain and upgrade their portion along the route. The RSS continues to develop, and enhance Claughan, Mt. Hillary, Mullagharennick and the Source of the Blackwater Looped walks all of which are accredited by the National Trails Office. With the assistance of LEADER IRD Duhallow is currently developing three loop walk trails of varying levels of difficulty for the Paps in Sneone, Baltimore.

- Stephen McAuliffe supports the joint effort through a combination of his farm income and his work on the Rural Social Scheme.
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Tús

This strategic joined-up thinking ensured that IRD Duhallow was a national leader, when it came to filling the initial allocation of 2 schemes with a total of 40 participants in 2010. Working tirelessly with the community and voluntary sector on their service and development plans, our placement capacity has grown from strength to strength; we now have 7 schemes bringing our total of participants to 140. IRD Duhallow matches the skill set of participants to available projects, providing suitable work placements. The skill-sets available are further enhanced by the integration of RSS and CE workers into various project teams thereby availing of their traditional master crafts and creating an environment of cross-training amongst the team members. This has enormous dividend for former construction workers, where by that are learning traditional techniques as well as maintaining their existing skills and practising their trade. The innovative and economical approach taken by IRD ensures that the participants are immersed in a strong progressive and developmental environment, offering opportunities for personal development in an informal learning setting together with the formal training paths and placements. IRD Duhallow has incorporated into this scheme. Participants undertake relevant training that will aid their progression opportunities on exit from the scheme. As part of the National Digital Strategy six Tús participants were trained on how to instruct and supervise a computer class, which included online banking, booking flights, purchasing online, email and audio visual communication such as Skype and Face time. To-date the team has delivered training to 177 people through the Benefit III programme.

Tús

The Craft of Stonemasonry

Tús and RSS participants have learned the craft of stonemasonry under the skilful tutorage and guidance of Tús Supervisor Don Murphy. This old traditional craft allowed the Tús and RSS participants to work with the community in Aubane, capturing the historical folklore of the area on a stone monument erected to commemorate King Mahon, who was the elder brother of Brian Boru and King of Munster when he was assassinated in 976 on Mushera Mountain at a place traditionally marked by Mahon’s Rock. A big celebration was held in Aubane on Sunday 19th April showcasing the stone monument created by our Tús and RSS participants.

Social Gain

Placement with other participants from the Rural Social Scheme, Community Employment and Community Services Programme, reduces the exclusion that often accompanies unemployment in remote rural areas. Moreover, when many of their cohort have emigrated adding to the sense of isolation, the social interaction of rural and urban people, whether small holders working hard to support their families with very small returns on their farms, or unemployed people trying to pay their rents and support their families on welfare payments, has led to a better understanding of the immense challenges facing both.

Tús

removing 1960s plaster and restoring the lime mortar to prevent dampness, as well as stone wall building around the perimeter.

Tús participants have also commenced work on an agri museum which incorporates a protected structure and the team will gain experience working in line with Heritage Council guidelines. This work requires a mix of expertise using traditional and conventional building and renovation skills.

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Tús enables the ongoing development of social capital, whereby community and project teams are released from the day to day work and are able to concentrate on better managing their facilities and indeed planning new initiatives for their areas.
Duhallow Community Food Services

Orlaith Tomkins commenced employment at DCFS in January 2008. She graduated from GMIT with a degree in Hotel and Catering Management. Since then Orlaith has had a wide range of experience working in four and five star hotels. Her broad range of experience left her ideally positioned to develop and expand the services offered at DCFS, to focus on the quality of the products and services offered. She is a registered trainer with the Food Safety Authority of Ireland and has completed several cookery courses with Fáilte Ireland.

These are exciting times for DCFS. In 2012 the Rural Meals Service provided over 23,000 meals to the community, in 2013 the service increased to over 35,000 meals, this shows considerable growth on the previous years further highlighting the demand for this service among the most vulnerable in our community. The centre from which we are currently operating in Boherbue has been deemed too small to expand the service to meet increasing demands, the HSE EHD has recommended that we need more space. As a result of these recommendations, we have a revised strategy to ensure that our communities are fully serviced, the Rural Meals service for the Western Duhallow and Eastern Kerry region will continue to operate in Boherbue, and the IRD Duhallow SAD Network will service the Eastern Duhallow region from the new JOK Innovation Centre which is currently under construction. DCFS will be moving its bakery facility to this centre later this year, facilitating the expansion of our meals service from our Boherbue base.

DCFS was established in 1998 with the main objective to deliver affordable meals on wheels service to the elderly living in isolation in Duhallow while also providing sheltered employment for long term unemployed. Recent studies reveal that older people in Duhallow form a more significant proportion of the population than is the case elsewhere in the region and in the state. Duhallow’s age profile and the vulnerability of some of its older citizens underscores the need for the service. Healthy eating is essential for many - but ensuring that there is always a nutritious, satisfying meal to eat in the middle of the day so the service was tailored to introduce the cook chill format of cooking. It is by far the safest option to use when cooking food that is intended for reheating. The first batch of dinners, are cooked at 4.00am each morning they are then packaged, chilled, stored and await delivery with the hot meals. The second batch is then cooked for hot delivery, the drivers load both hot and cold dinners for delivery. Five delivery routes are in operation throughout the region. Considerable investment was required to equip each vehicle with both hot and cold holding boxes to ensure that all food safety regulations are strictly adhered to. Meals are provided at a reduced cost this is made possible through funding from the state for staffing and a grant from the HSE. However this alone no longer covers the costs and it has become necessary to expand and grow the other products and services offered by DCFS to further offset the growing costs. Our catering business has expanded in recent years, we provide catering for conferences, confirmations, funerals etc. We also provide baking to a number of local retail outlets and Kanturk Farmers Market as well as catering for the Comprehensive in Boherbue.

DCFS employs 22 people through CPR, RSS and Tús. The centre provides the opportunity for the long term unemployed to access employment locally.

While there are a number of activities at DCFS, the meals service is at the heart of the operation. Traditionally the service was based on the provision of a hot meal delivered at lunchtime and at an affordable price. It then became apparent that not everybody wanted to eat in the middle of the day so the service was tailored to introduce the cook chill format of cooking. It is by far the safest option to use when cooking food that is intended for reheating. The first batch of dinners, are cooked at 4.00am each morning they are then packaged, chilled, stored and await delivery with the hot meals. The second batch is then cooked for hot delivery, the drivers load both hot and cold dinners for delivery. Five delivery routes are in operation throughout the region. Considerable investment was required to equip each vehicle with both hot and cold holding boxes to ensure that all food safety regulations are strictly adhered to. Meals are provided at a reduced cost this is made possible through funding from the state for staffing and a grant from the HSE. However this alone no longer covers the costs and it has become necessary to expand and grow the other products and services offered by DCFS to further offset the growing costs. Our catering business has expanded in recent years, we provide catering for conferences, confirmations, funerals etc. We also provide baking to a number of local retail outlets and Kanturk Farmers Market as well as catering for the Comprehensive in Boherbue.

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South Eastern Duhallow Communities

Aubane
Banter
Bweerp
Derrington
Donoughmore & Sknaume
Firmount
Kilcorney
Laharn
Lyre
Millsstreet
Nadd
New Tipperary
Rathcoole

Western Duhallow Communities

Ballinahulla
Ballybady
Ballydesmond
Boherbue
Cullen
Floglogohig
Glash
Gnevegquilla
Kiskarem
Knockadlarig
Knooknaboul
Meein
Rathmore
Rockchapel
Shrone
Taun
Touerencahill

North Eastern Duhallow Communities

Castlemagner
Cecilstown
Dromtariffe
Freamount
Kanturk
Kilbain
Lismire
Neavemart
Tullislease

Community Groups in Duhallow

IRD Duhallow Representatives

John Kelleher & Martina Sheehan
Denis Withers & John Kirwan
Jeanette O’Connell & Sean Kelly
Tom Meaney & Charlie Drake
Patrick Buckley & Monica Kennedy
Margaret O’Donovan & Peter Cafferkey
Donie Howard & Neil O’Shea
Eileen Forde & Sheila Crowley
Billy Murphy & Richard Murphy
Noel Buckley & Veronica Perisidait
Cedagh McSweeney & Pauline O’Shea
Mamie O’Shea & Tony Horgan
Eamonn Hurley & Liz Burns

IRD Duhallow Representatives

Liam Doody & Betty Collins
Richie O’Connor & WJ Moynihan
Siobhan Moynihan & Dan O’Connor
Margaret Murphy & Marie Casey
Gillian O’Sullivan & Lorraine Singleton
Annette O’Reilly & Geraldine Cremin
Mossie Fitzpatrick & Timothy Collins
Cormac Collins & Yvonne Crean
Paddy Joe O’Leary & Bart Casey
June Walsh & Ide Fitzgerald
Maureen Fleming & Tim Fitzgerald
Geraldine O’Connor & Claire Fleming
Eileen Kelly & Denis McAuliffe
Brian Kelly & Marie O’Leary
Mike Allen & Breda O’Callaghan
Conor Creedon & Colette Carmody
Bart O’Callaghan & Jeremiah Murphy
Bertie O’Leary & Lil Fleming

IRD Duhallow Representatives

James Twoghill & Andy Bourke
Mary Cooney & William Morrissey
Donie Forde & Deirdre Forde
Caroline O’Carroll & Mike O’Regan
John Fauler & Tommy Mullane
Patrick Drumm & Jenny Casey
Colman Jones & Sheila Kearney
Edish Hourigan & Ollie Dugdale
Angela Hannigan & Mary O’Connell

In this situation the service is primarily available for the elderly, those suffering or recovering from sickness or simply finds that access to the shops can be difficult through rural isolation. DCFS provides these people with access to a wide range of tasty, wholesome, prepared meals and delicious desserts, all delivered direct to the home.
IRD Duhallow

www.irdduhallow.com

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