



IRD Duhallow

Progress Report

Duhallow

THE SPIRIT OF RURAL IRELAND

2013 - 2014

COMMUNITIES IN DUHALLOW



Duhallow The Land & People

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.



IRD Duhallow

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Minister of State Sean Sherlock receives the Company's Progress Report from Cormac Collins, Chairman and Maura Walsh, CEO IRD Duhallow.

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, local not county wide 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 on alignment. I want to thank Frank Lewis of Radio Kerry for Chairing the event and Dr. Brendan O'Keeffe for his valuable insight and straight talking, no nonsense 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 Chairs of the Working Groups ensured that all continued their work in delivering the targets set out for them by the Board, as well as keep 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 make our case 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 Maria Bourke who also chairs the Finance sub-committee, for her steadfast support and wise counsel. It remains to be seen if a 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 community and communities 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 family farms 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 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 intensively, subsequently Duhallow would be at risk of becoming a large forestry mono culture plantation – out of sight, out of mind and most important out of pocket.

Our excellent Duhallow Area Rural Transport fell victim of government rationalisation during the year, as the six providers in County Cork were cast aside in favour of a new Bantry based Transport Co-ordination Unit. I want to thank the DART Committee Chairman, Noel Dillon, who in an

entirely voluntary capacity guided the phenomenal successful growth of the service over the past 10 years. So as we move from a local transport to a countywide service, let us hope that the people that are so dependent on the service in Duhallow are not forgotten in the rationalisation rush and left behind. One thing, I am certain of is that there will be no savings whatsoever.

This Company was founded 25 years ago this year by a group of local businessmen who all enjoyed angling on the Blackwater. One of them Michael Twohig, who has served as a Chairman of IRD Duhallow in the past, heads up a new LEADER funded initiative to establish Duhallow as an angling centre of excellence, focusing on the many trout teaming tributaries of the Blackwater. Fellow angler, Tom Ankettell is developing the centre supported by the angling clubs in the region. This is another vital piece of tourism infrastructure for Duhallow.

I want to pay tribute to our retired Board members for their dedication and support, Michael Cremin, Cllr. Dan Joe Fitzgerald, Cllr. John Paul O'Shea, (Cork County Council), Cllr. John Sheahan, Cllr. Sean Counihan, (Kerry County Council), Collette O'Connor and Eugene O'Connor (Western Duhallow). I want to welcome our new Board Members, Cllr. Melissa Mullane and Cllr. Bernard Moynihan (Cork County Council), Cllr. Danny Healy Rae and Cllr. Niall Kelleher (Kerry County Council), Breeda Moynihan Cronin (Social Economy Working Group) and finally our newly elected Western Duhallow Representatives, Brian Kelly, Rathmore and Batt Casey, Kiskeam.

This Progress Report speaks for itself in terms of the quality of services we provide in the Duhallow region. Our Board, having adopted the Governance Code and rejuvenated itself once again this year, is ready and able to continue to serve the communities, businesses and all sectors of Duhallow in to the future. I am indebted to all our Board members past and present for their support and their dedication to the company.

Following the recent successful LEADER Rally in Dublin and the cabinet reshuffle we were delighted to hear that Ann Phelan has been named Minister for Rural Affairs. Even though, LEADER 2014-2020 has seen its budget cut by 52% we have managed previous LEADER programmes similar levels that produced excellent projects and contributed significantly to the development of the rural economy.

To conclude, I must compliment and pay gratitude to our CEO Maura Walsh, who with the support of her management team and staff, has ensured that even through all the uncertainty of the past year, they are committed to achieving the highest standard of work and outcomes across all programmes. I also want to acknowledge all the participants on the Tús, RSS and CE Schemes who also contribute to upholding IRD Duhallow's reputation for having hard workers.

I am sure that the year ahead will bring with it new challenges and new opportunities. The Board will continue to represent, the best interests of all aspects of our region and communities. As we enter a new strategic planning phase, I am confident that as a company with the support of our communities, we will continue to play an even more significant role in the ongoing development of the region.

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 impact individually and collectively is well evident right across the region.

Our ongoing animation and capacity building and targeting of social inclusion has seen more groups getting involved in the development of their areas and communities. In addition, more are becoming involved in their local community structures, as well as the sub-committees and 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, social 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 benefitted from the work of IRD Duhallow. Our strength 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 Tús scheme was awarded the National Employment Initiative of the year 2014 by LAMA, the Local Authority Members Association and deservedly so. Our supervisors work hard under the guidance of Team Leader Triona Murphy, to provide the best possible experience for participants and communities alike. Tús, RSS and CE participants and supervisors work and learn side by side and this we believe will add value to all three schemes. Ambitious projects have been taken on, but I'm confident that they will stand as testament to the work of those that were left unemployed 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, Sean 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, which were in the past delivered 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 Trasna Consortium in order to tender to deliver this service.

The new social inclusion programme is also up for competitive tender 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 tendered on our own in anticipation that the existing foot print of 35 rural local development companies will continue in their roles but reporting to the Local Authorities Local Community Development Committees.

Our thanks to Clodagh McDonnell of the Department Environment, 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 and 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 McKeown of DQS who inspect and audit 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 Pdraig de Burca and his team in Pobal; Breda Dooley, Department Inspector for the LEADER Programme; Neil Wilkie of Astrale the LIFE Programme Monitor; NSAI, the National Standards Authority of Ireland; the Environmental Health Officer Caroline Smyth; the Health and Safety Authority Inspectors,

William Murphy and Gerard McSweeney; our company auditors Mary Power, Barbara O'Leary and Debbie Collins of Westboro 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 Raptors, one of only three successful projects in the country. Well done to Michael Doyle and the Environment Working Group and Dr. Fran Igoe and Kieran Murphy of our Enterprise Team on this success. Our thanks to Siobhan nic Thighearnáin 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; Derval Corbett 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 RSS, Tús and CE Supervisors who have inspired and expanded the scope of the schemes; Yvonne and her team in DART for their continued loyalty to a programme that of late has not reciprocated to them in anyway; Colm Crowley and the Warmer Homes Team who continue to expand the service; Gerard Murphy and the participants in Furniture Revamp and Ann McMahon and her team in the Afterschools. It is my pleasure and privilege to lead such a dynamic and diverse team of dedicated, loyal and professional staff.

Finally, I want to thank the Board and in particular our Vice-Chair Anne Maria Bourke for her constant support and encouragement. To Cormac Collins, our Chairman, who has been steadfast in upholding the principles that this company was founded on, for holding the ship steady in stormy waters, and skilfully adjusting the sails so that we can continue on our mission, serving the communities developing the local economy, protecting the environment, tackling 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.

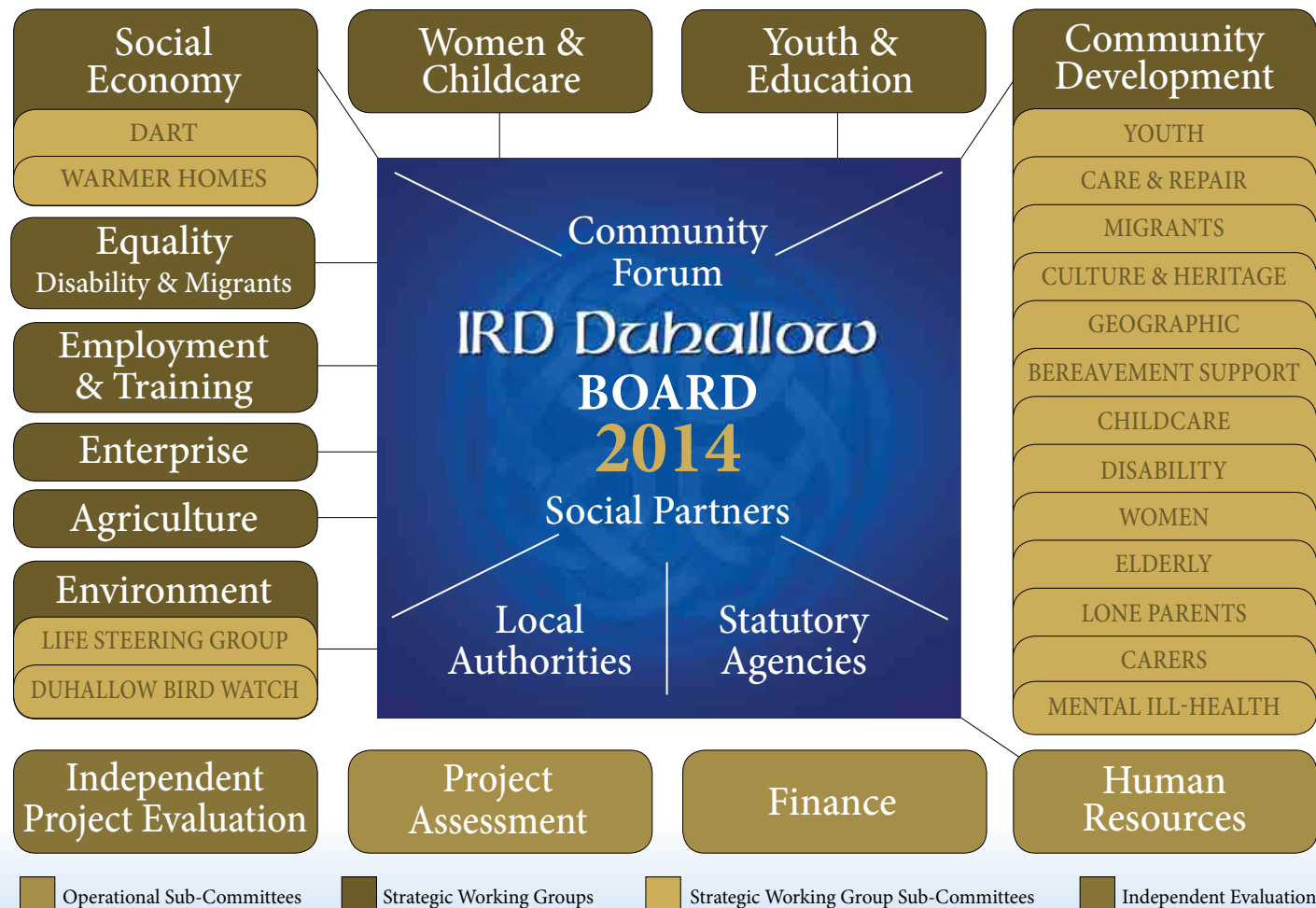
The Board membership reflects the integration of Social Inclusion and Rural Development, the importance of the environment and community volunteers and the democratically elected Local Authority Members.

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 group.

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 was appointed Chairman of IRD Duhallow in 2012. He is 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 Duhallow. ESB has worked closely with IRD Duhallow in delivering three phase electricity to many small industries in rural Duhallow and has also supported the Warmer Home Scheme since the beginning. He is chair of Gneeveguilla Community Council. He serves on the HR, Finance and Community Development Working Groups.



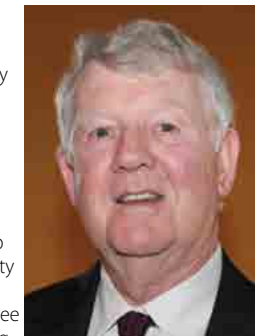
Suzanne Campion

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 Life+ 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 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 Organisation & 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 and training and delivering opportunities for marginalised individuals and target groups.



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 is a member of Killarney Salmon & Trout Angling Club. Tony sits on the Social Economy Working Group. He is married to Anne and they have three children.



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 ECSSA (Electrical Contractors Safety Standards Association) Ireland and is involved in a number of voluntary and charitable organisations.



John Breen

John Breen joined the Board of IRD Duhallow in September 2008, as the nominee of the Kerry County Manager, Mr. Tom Curran. John holds the position of Director of Services, Sustainable Communities/Quality of Life. He is also Killarney Municipal District Manager. John has previously worked in Dublin and Limerick City Council and Tralee Town Council. He and his staff in the Sustainable Communities business unit Department support the work of the Local Community Development Committee also have an overseeing role in relation to the Kerry Local Sports Partnership, Kerry Enterprise Action Team, Kerry County Library and Kerry Community & Voluntary Forum.



IRD Duhallow Board Members

LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND SOCIAL PARTNERS

Michael Twohig

Michael is a founder 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 Noreen he manages the family owned Supervalu Stores in Kanturk, Abbeyfeale and Askeaton. A keen angler and hunter he has developed a number of angling projects in Duhallow. Michael is an active 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 Maria Bourke is the Board's Vice Chairman and Chair of the Finance Committee, representing the I.N.T.O. Anne Maria is the Principal of Liscarroll N.S which offers special classes for children with autism. She is an active member of the union being the current secretary of the District 16 Branch of the I.N.T.O. Principal's forum and a member of Cork I.P.P.N. (Irish Primary Principal Network). In addition, she is Chairperson of Allianz Sciath na Scoil North Cork Primary Schools' Game. She is a keen bridge player and is a member of both Brogeen and Kanturk Bridge Club.



Daniel Roche

Daniel Roche is a 23 year old trainee accountant with Grant Thornton Accountants in Limerick. He studied Law and Accounting in the University of Limerick and is presently sitting the ACA chartered accounting exams. Daniel represents the agriculture pillar and Macra na Feirme on the board. He is a long standing member of Macra na Feirme and is affiliated to the Freemount Club and has held a number of positions at Club and County level. Daniel is an avid greyhound enthusiast who hails from Banteer.



John Linehan

John, a full time Dairy Farmer from Dromtarriffe was elected on to the Board in July 2009 as a representative of the farming sector. John and his wife, Angela, have 3 children. He has recently completed a degree in Rural Development and is an active member of the the Dromtarriffe community and is a former Chairman of Duhallow IFA and the current Affiliations Officer for the Dromtarriffe Branch. John is the Chairman of IRD Duhallow's Agriculture Working Group and is a member of IRD Duhallow's Focal Farmer Programme.



Niall Kelleher

Cllr. Niall Kelleher is a businessman, part-time farmer and member of Kerry County Council, elected on his first attempt in May 2014. Aged 28, Niall is an employer in Rathmore (Connie K's Bar) and is Managing Director of Tangerine Management, based in Killarney. Niall is a member of the Audit Committee on Kerry County Council. Niall is a former Chairman of Rathmore Community Council and Secretary of the Rathmore Community Alert Association. Niall has helped to establish a CoderDojo club in Killarney, and has worked alongside Irish American Technology Entrepreneur Sean O'Sullivan to run the SELR8R programme.



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 Kerry Co. Council for eleven years and has worked diligently for his Constituents since then. Some of the issues he deals with include health, employment, roads, planning, housing, water and sewage services, agriculture and all other problems that effect people on a daily basis, he is a member of the HSE South and a member of the Roads & Transportation Committee. Danny Healy Rae is looking forward to actively participating on the Board of IRD Duhallow.



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 Dromscarra, Kiskeam and he is a part time farmer, he is also an ASTI Union Representative for the Cork and Kerry region since 1999. Bernard was one of the founding members of Kiskeam Development Association and has previously served as Treasurer of Kiskeam GAA Club. He was recently elected Deputy Mayor of the Mallow Kanturk Municipal Authority. Bernard is happily married with his wife Blathanid.



Melissa Mullane

Cllr Melissa Mullane is the Sinn Féin Councillor for the Kanturk-Mallow area. Melissa is married with a teenage daughter and was previously a Town Councillor in Mallow Town Council. Melissa is long term employee of Dairygold Co-operative Society and former part-time VEC Tutor on Payroll and Taxation. She is also a former Trade unionist representative. A member of her party for over 10 years, she has considerable experience in engaging with the public, lobbying for constituents and being at the forefront of various local campaigns.



IRD Duhallow Board Members

COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST AND COMMUNITY FORUM

Batt Casey

Batt Casey was elected to the board of IRD Duhallow in June 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 the current chairperson of Kiskeam's Development Association, and a member of Kiskeam Social Action Group, the Graveyard Committee and also of Boherbue Kiskeam St. Vincent de Paul Society of which he is a founding member. He is also a former Board member of Newmarket Co-op. 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 ECSSA a body set to regulate the electrical industry. He along with his wife Anna run two subway restaurants in Cork and Ballincollig, and served 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.



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 Carers 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 Ard na Coille Bed and Breakfast in Laharn on the Duhallow Way walking route.



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 Banteer National School and sits on the board of Banteer Creche. He is employed by the Department of Justice & Equality based in Cork and has a diploma in Rural Development. He is an active member of Banteer community.



Jack Roche

Jack Roche is from Rockchapel and represents the SAOI Network. He sits on the Social Economy, Human Resources and Community Development Working Groups. Jack represents IRD Duhallow on a number of forums including ILDN and was recently Chairman of the LEADER anti alignment rally. Jack also represents ILDN on ELARD the European Association for Rural Development of which he is past President. He is very involved in cultural development of the region including the development of Bruach na Carraige Cultural Centre in Rockchapel, the Sliabh Luachra Cultural Trail.



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 Duhallow Womens' Forum. She hails 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 five North Cork Guilds and Vice President for the Dromtarriffe Guild. She has also served as Vice Chair of IRD Duhallow for 3 years.



Deirdre Green

Deirdre is from Freemount and was elected to the board of IRD Duhallow to represent North East Duhallow. She holds a Bachelor Degree in Business from CIT and a Higher Diploma in Education from UL. She works as an accountant in Mallow. Deirdre is deeply involved in the development of her local community. She is a founding member of Freemount Badminton Club and currently Joint Treasurer of Freemount Community Development Assoc. Deirdre sits on our Community Development Working Group and is vice chair of the Women's Forum.



John Cott

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



Details of Staff



EILEEN LINEHAN, B.A. (Econ & Geog), MBS (Business Economics), Dip. Personnel Mng. Dip. in Public Procurement EU funded projects

Eileen is the Assistant Manager with responsibility for the Enterprise team which includes the LIFE+ programme. She has responsibility for both the LCDP & LEADER Programmes. She supports the Manager in the day to day running of the company and prepares the Programme of Activities and oversees the financial operations of a number of programmes. Eileen monitors the progress of the programmes through the IRIS & LEADER performance monitoring systems and represents Community Partnerships on the Cork County Childcare Committee, which she currently Chairs, Pobal's Pension Board and Cork North and East Citizens Information Service.



TRIONA MURPHY, MBS Cooperative and Social Enterprise, B.Sc Public Health & Health Promotion

Triona joined IRD Duhallow in 2007 and is now the Community Development & Employment Team Leader. Triona oversees the operations of the Rural Social Scheme, Tús and the Equality for Women Measure. She works in animation and capacity building with the communities in Western Duhallow and through LEADER funding assists them to develop high quality local services and amenities. Triona supports the work of both the Community and Youth and Education Working Groups and is coordinator of the Towards Occupation Programme.



HELEN O'SULLIVAN, B.Soc.Sc., M.Soc.Sc, Dip Com, Leadership & Mgt, Cert in Agri.

With over 9 years experience in both Community Development and Enterprise Helen is the Community Services Team Leader with responsibility for the management and development of the Warmer Homes Scheme, Rural Transport Programme and Newmarket Afterschools. Helen works closely with community, youth and voluntary groups in South and North Eastern Duhallow to support their vision for improving their communities and develop their capacity under both the LEADER and LCDP programmes. She is the co-ordinator of the IRD Duhallow Bereavement Support and Domestic Violence Helpline.



DR. FRAN IGOE, PHD in Zoology, BSc Science

Fran joined IRD Duhallow as Project Scientist in 2011. Previously he worked in research, stakeholder management and enforcement with Inland Fisheries Ireland. Currently he co-ordinates the LIFE project, which is comprised of targeted conservation actions for EU important wildlife species including the Freshwater Pearl Mussel, Atlantic Salmon, Otter, Kingfisher together with their habitats found in Duhallow. He designs and co-ordinates the technical element of the project with his colleagues by working with the local community. He also provides regular inputs to media and the project website. As part of the Enterprise team Fran reports to the Senior Team Leader, the Environment Forum and the LIFE Steering Committee.



MARGARET O'CONNOR, MAAT-accounting technician, Aipa – Payroll technician

Margaret is the Senior Accounts Administrator and has been employed by IRD Duhallow for seventeen years. She is responsible for the establishment and maintenance of the company's financial systems and procedures and the implementation of the apportionment of overheads across the various programmes delivered including LEADER and LCDP. She also oversees the Payroll and Pension administration and prepares Financial Reports for Management and the Board of Directors on a monthly basis.



KATIE CROWLEY, B.B.S. Postgraduate Dip in Rural Dev, Food Mkt & Co-ops, Cert in Agri

Katie joined IRD Duhallow in 2007 as Development Officer on the Enterprise team and works across the LCDP and LEADER Programmes. She is responsible for the Diversification measure of LEADER, the LCDP funded Focal Farmer Programme which supports over 350 low income farm families, Duhallow Bird Watch Group and Duhallow's GIY Group as well as providing support to the Duhallow Beekeeper Association. She assists individuals with LEADER and LCDP grant applications and is also the staff resource to the Agricultural and Environment Working Groups focusing and promoting sustainable intensification of agriculture and conservation of the environment.



MARY MCHUGH, B.B.S. Postgrad Dip in Rural Dev, Food Mktg and Co-operative Studies. Cert in Community Dev. Cert in Health & Safety in the Workplace

Mary joined IRD Duhallow in 2006 and is responsible for Equality, Employment and Training. She is responsible for promoting lifelong learning in Duhallow by ensuring access and opportunity for adults wishing to return to education by coordinating a range of training initiatives both through LEADER and LCDP. Mary coordinates the Equality for Women Measure, New Communities and Migrants and Empowerment of People with Disabilities. Mary is the staff resource for the Duhallow Women's Forum, the Employment and Training and Equality Working Groups. Mary is Chairperson of the Health and Safety Committee.



LOUISE BOURKE, B.C.L., Masters in Criminal Justice, Masters in Management, Cert in Agri.

Louise joined the IRD Duhallow Enterprise team in November 2010, as the Enterprise and Tourism Development Officer, coordinating LEADER and LCDP project applications. She is also the appointed staff liaison for the Enterprise Working Group, Business Mentoring Programme, the Duhallow Carers Group, the Lone Parents group, SAOI Network and the Literacy Support Programme. Louise represents IRD Duhallow on the boards of the Cork Tourism Network, Cork Working Group for Older People, Go Kerry Tourism and the Duhallow Boxing Club.



MARIE FLEMING, Dip. in Rural Development. Cert in Health & Safety in the Workplace

Since May 2006 Marie has been a clerical officer, she provides administration support to Development Officers and supports the Manager's participation on a number of National and International fora. Marie co-ordinates the monthly board pack and provides the administrative support for Excellence through People, Ireland's standard for human resource development and co-ordinates training for staff members. Marie is secretary of the Health and Safety Committee. Marie has just completed a Degree in Rural Development through distance learning with UCC.



DERVAL CORBETT, ECOL, Cert in Supervisory Management

Derval has been employed by IRD Duhallow since 1999 as a clerical officer. She is based in the Reception and Administration Office. She deals with general enquiries and administration and supports the manager in participation on a number of National Networks. Derval is editor of the company's monthly Newsletter which is circulated to 10,000 homes in Duhallow. She is responsible for the company's stationery requirements and oversees the company's IT systems. Derval is the Authorised Signatory for the processing of Garda Vetting Applications for LEADER Partnerships.



KIERAN MURPHY, Bachelors of Science in Wildlife Biology

Kieran joined the full time staff in June 2012 and is part of the IRD Duhallow LIFE Project team. As Project Scientist, he is responsible for the monitoring and improvement of the habitat and wildlife along the River Allow and its catchment area. Kieran liaises with many of the project stakeholders and oversees much of the on-the-ground actions. He also delivers educational lectures to the schools of Duhallow, and the general public, on the LIFE Project and the environment. As member of the Duhallow Bird-watching group Kieran acts as guide for the annual Dawn Chorus and oversees some of the birdwatching excursions around the country.



KASIA MELLER, MA in Political Science, IPASS Payroll Technician, Accounting Technician

Kasia was appointed Accounts Officer in March 2007. In January 2008, Kasia took over as Finance Officer on the Community Development Team. She is responsible for the preparation of weekly and monthly accounts for RSS, TUS, Out of school, DART, Walks, LEADER, and prepares quarterly reports to Pobal. Kasia also processes the Out of school and DART wages on a weekly basis and she prepares financial reports for the Social Economy and Finance meetings and the reports for the Main Board.



LAURA CORCORAN, BB in Event Management with Public Relations, BBS (Business Management)

Laura joined IRD Duhallow in 2010 and has built up experience by working to undertake tasks and projects within the company and carrying out various administration duties during the Summer periods. Laura has completed her final year studies and now works as Events Development Officer with the Enterprise Team, her responsibilities include the co-ordination of various events for IRD Duhallow assisting with Community events throughout the region such as the Duhallow Cycling Sportive. Laura also provides assistance for the co-ordination of the Annual Progress Report.



COLM FITZPATRICK, Bachelors in Business Studies

Colm joined IRD Duhallow in 2013 and works within the Accounts Department. His responsibilities include the preparation of Programme weekly bank reconciliations and the processing of invoices to be paid. He also has responsibility for preparing weekly and monthly accounts and he also assists in the compilation of financial reports which are presented to the Finance Board on a monthly basis and reports prepared and submitted to POBAL. Colm is currently studying for his ACCA exams in Chartered Accounting.

Environment

Why Our Environment Matters so Much

The simplest explanation about why the environment matters is that, as humans the environment, the Earth-is our home. It is where we live, breathe, eat, raise our children, etc. Our entire life support system is dependent on the well-being of all the species living on earth. Another reason why the environment is so important is because it is a source of natural beauty. According to "Healthy Nature Healthy People" nature plays a key role in our- human health and well being, research has shown that contact with nature can also play a role in preventing mental illness. Our green environment provides the brand and competitive advantage for our food exports and tourism. Our environment like other assets needs constant care and attention. Many species of animals and plants are under severe pressure. Our clean water supply is at risk and more and more of our beautiful, open spaces are disappearing.



Nuala Riordan and Katie Crowley who represented IRD Duhallow at a Biodiversity & LEADER International Conference which took place in Vienna last April.

The primary focus of IRD Duhallow's Environment Working Group is on the need for Duhallow to deliver positive environmental outcomes, by identifying problems in the area and devising active resolutions of root causes. To this end we have identified five key goals to protect and improve Duhallow's Environment through: Environmental Awareness, Sustainable Land Use, Hedgerow Management, Protection of Habitats and Ecosystems and the safeguarding of Endangered Species.

"Your Lifetime Ticket to The Theatre of Nature"

Duhallow Birdwatch Group was established in 2009, its primary aim is to support, educate, inform and promote bird conservation in Duhallow. The group currently has thirty active members, including professional conversationalists, amateur and beginner bird watchers.

Educational Field Trips, Lectures and Workshops

During the past year the group organised a number of field trips, information seminars and workshops. They visited the East Coast Nature Reserve in Wicklow and Cuskenny Nature Reserve in Cobh. Over 80 different species of birds were identified between the two trips. Wildlife expert Jim Wilson delivered an illustrated talk to over fifty of our birdwatchers on penguins, albatrosses, seals and whales which he encountered in South Georgia and the Southern Ocean on a recent trip to Antarctica.



Brin McDonnell of the Duhallow Bird Watch Group and Jim Wilson who spoke on his experiences of wildlife in Antarctica.

Twilight, Natural History in Duhallow

Conor Kelleher of the Cork County Bat Group spoke on the threats facing Bats in our community, followed by a fieldtrip to the Island Wood in Newmarket, where participants got the opportunity to use Bat detectors and witness Bats in full flight. The old bat myths such as "becoming caught in hair", "living in belfries" and being "as blind as a bat", are finally being replaced by a growing knowledge of the uniqueness of these small mammals.



A large crowd attended a seminar by Conor Kelleher of the Cork County Bat Group which incorporated a visit to the Island Wood after dark to witness Bats in full flight.

Dawn Chorus

The Dawn Chorus in Duhallow is traditionally the morning when wildlife enthusiasts across the barony and beyond set their alarm clocks a little earlier than usual to go out and enjoy a morning of beautiful birdsong. For the fourth consecutive year the chorus was heard in the Island Wood in Newmarket and twenty species were identified followed by a full Irish breakfast served by Duhallow Community Food Services.



Brin McDonnell, Maura Walsh and David Breja tagging a Barn Owl.

Garden Bird Survey

Garden birds are among our most familiar and easily observed bird species. They are easily attracted to feeders and bird tables, and can be watched from the comfort of our own homes. This year we participated in the BirdWatch Ireland Garden Bird Survey which helped us keep track of the fortunes of Duhallow's garden birds. The most common species identified in the survey included: Woodpigeon, Wren, Robin, Blackbird, Song Thrush, Blue Tit and Starlings.

Grow It Yourself Duhallow (GIY)

With the rise of diet-related illness, there has never been a more urgent need for people to grow and eat healthy food. Research has shown that when people grow some of their own food, they gain a deeper understanding which leads to long term dietary changes and improved mental and physical wellbeing.



Sarah and Julie Guiney helping themselves to some Homemade Elderberry and Lemon cordial.

Since GIY Duhallow's inception in 2009 we have organised Workshops, Trips and Information Events. This year Christine Best a Medicinal Herbalist delivered an inspiring talk on herbal remedies, Rachel Budd, Horticulturalist spoke on developing raised beds, growing undercover, preparing ground for sowing and also facilitated a very successful seed swap night, Sarah O'Brien spoke on GM foods. The group also organised a Jam and Chutney cookery demonstration. Field trips were organised to Griffins Garden Centre and the Nano Nagle Centre as well as three group garden visits to the gardens of Tony & Joan Keogh, Rockchapel, Ann-Marie & Denis Lehan, Meelin and Helen & Pat Cranitch, Laharn. We were also successful in our application for funding through the Get Ireland Growing Fund in association with AIB for development of our Therapeutic Garden.



Christine Best who addressed the GIY Group on the advantages of Herbal Medicine.

Members of GIY Duhallow enjoying a field trip to Helen & Pat Cranitch's beautiful garden in near Laharn Cross.



National Tree Week – Wood Turning Demonstration

This year National Tree Week took place from the 2nd - 8th March. To mark the event, we organised a Wood turning Demonstration in Brogeen Crafts Kanturk. It was amazing to watch the proprietor Jeremiah Dennehy, peel away years of deposits to reveal a unique and breathtaking work of art.



Jeremiah Dennehy of Brogeen Crafts who facilitated a wood turning demonstration during National Tree Week in his LEADER funded studio in Kanturk.

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.



Maura Walsh (CEO IRD Duhallow), with members of the Blackwater River Trust; Michael Byrne (Blackwater Anglers), Ralph Tindal, Chris Scanlan Fisheries Officer IFI, Tim Harley BL, David O'Meara Solicitor, Michael Fawl Inspector IFI, Dr. Fran Igoe (IRD Duhallow LIFE), Dr. Tony Seda, Edward Halinan, Charles Keane (European Landowners Organisation)

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, rainwater 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.



The LIFE project has recently installed a number of pasture pumps for cattle.



Fran Igoe gives a demonstration on how new silt traps designed by the LIFE team work.

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 to reduce the siltation of the river bed, for the benefit of the Freshwater Pearl Mussel.



Excellent turnout of stakeholders for River Catchment Management Plan launch for the River Allow catchment.

Fairness in farming

The LIFE project put together a submission to the Department of Agriculture Food and Marine's public consultation on the Rural Development Programme. This submission outlined the need for Ireland to move towards sustainable farming, which protects and enhances the long term sustainability of rural communities and their natural resources. This includes good water quality and wildlife. More specifically, a proposal was also made for the development of a no nonsense agri-environmental scheme for 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.



Native Ash tree saplings being collected for planting along the river bank.



LIFE Project scientist Fran Igoe removes a significant amount of mobile silt from test land drains before entering the River (SAC).

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 Dalua. The tree planting is still an important activity to date the project has planted 1000's of willow stakes and slip cuttings harvested from mature willow trees in Duhallow. In addition to these the public and Coillte have kindly donated over 2,000 native alder, ash, birch and oak tree saplings. The 'species recording in your neighbourhood' is still on going in our local schools with the help of a student from MIC Limerick. Check it out at www.duhallowLIFE.com!

IRD Duhallow is working hard to ensure that not only wildlife but also the local economy benefits from the LIFE project. Where possible, equipment is purchased locally and local contractors are used.



Landowners receive demonstration on river bank restoration technique using old Christmas trees.

LIFE+



School children from around Duhallow partake in field trips to the river to learn about fish and aquatic life.

Signage

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



Niall Walsh from the Department of Geography Mary Immaculate College on third level student placement to the IRD Duhallow LIFE+ project.

Integrated Catchment Management

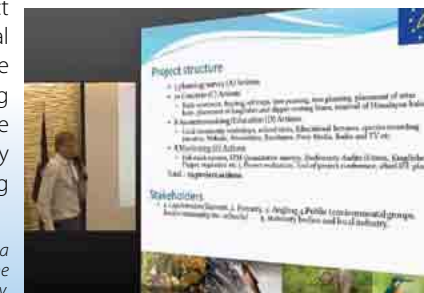
The LIFE project teamed up with the INTERREGIV TRAP project. The latter project is coordinated by the Regional Assembly and aims to develop good practice regarding water management. Building on the planning expertise from the TRAP project together with the on the ground experience of the IRD Duhallow LIFE project, a catchment management initiative was launched for the River Allow. This could become a template for other river catchments and keen interest is being taken by the EPA, Teagasc, Inland Fisheries Ireland, Irish Water, OPW, Coillte, Cork Co Council, the farming organisations (Macra, IFI and ICMSA), landowners, anglers, universities as well as environmental NGO's. The aim is to look at all aspects affecting the management of water in the catchment and reach a management process rooted in consensus and co-operation for everyone's benefit.



Volunteers assist in the planting of locally sourced Yellow Flag Iris in the new ponds in Newmarket.

Conferences and Universities

The project has continued to showcase our work at national and international symposia and conferences. Last December the project presented to the 3waterLIFE project in Brussels. The 3waterLIFE project is also working with landowners and finding 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.



Dr. Fran Igoe giving a presentation as part of the UK/Ireland LIFE Information Day.



Education and public awareness is a key element to the LIFE project. Jack Roche mans the LIFE stand at the Ploughing 2013.

RaptorLIFE

IRD Duhallow was delighted to be awarded a new LIFE+ Nature project this year, which will commence in January 2015. Competition for this EU funding is tight, with only 3 out of the 13 major applications from Ireland, successfully being awarded funding. This is the second LIFE+ project that IRD Duhallow has been awarded, which clearly demonstrates that the Rural Development Company model is suitable for large scale nature conservation projects. This €3million euro LIFE+ project is a 4.5 year project and aims to work with the local community to achieve a better environment for everyone in Duhallow. The title of the project, also known as RaptorLIFE is "Connecting and restoring habitats for Hen harrier, Merlin, Atlantic salmon and brook lamprey in Duhallow, Ireland". It is innovative in a number of respects not least in that it aims to join up the conservation of two important EU designated sites (Blackwater Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and the Stack's to Mullaghareirk Mountains, West Limerick hills and Mount Magle Special Protection Area (SPA)). This is the first time that the conservation of two Natura 2000 sites (SPA and SAC) have been integrated in this way, pointing the way forward to a more holistic approach to the conservation of these important wildlife areas. Raptors are birds of prey and Duhallow is one of the most important areas in Ireland for these iconic and threatened birds. Hen harrier in particular have undergone a serious decline due to loss of habitat and persecution. An 85% decline has been recorded in Duhallow in recent years. It is IRD Duhallow's intention to explore the positive aspects of these birds by working with the local community and relevant stakeholders to promote their conservation though better public awareness and habitat restoration. The Merlin is Ireland's smallest bird of prey and little is known about the species. The project aims to find out more about Merlin in Duhallow and promote their habitat. A measure of the health of any rural community is the status of its environment and this project aims to make a significant contribution to not only wildlife conservation but to the natural heritage and environmental quality of the landscape of Duhallow. We wish to thank all of those who contributed so much of their time and helped us put the application together.



LIFE has placed 10 artificial otter holts and restored habitat for otters which are protected under the EU Habitats Directive.



Times journalist Paddy Woodworth visits the river bank where 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 attention 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.



A Bucket load of help. Millstreet Farmers, Ryan Tarrant, David & Stephen Roche and Donal Corcoran with his two nephews lending a helping hand during the busy silage season.

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, also 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. €18,500 was distributed to 115 farmers in Duhallow rewarding them for their continued onfarm 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 ensuring that the loss of nutrients from agriculture to surface water is minimised. Other supports include: ongoing support to fifty eight Rural Social Scheme participants, tailored One to One Supports, Information Meetings and Workshops, support to Women in Agriculture, Duhallow Beekeepers, Grow it Yourself Duhallow and IRD Duhallow's Farmers Market.



Two happy campers.



Hay bales which are a plentiful sight in Duhallow thanks to the glorious summer weather.

Prioritisation of low Income Farm Families through the LCDP 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 5,400 families whose farm household viability is under threat. The agri-food sector contributes significantly to Duhallow's economic and social environment.



John Linehan, John O'Connor, Brian Murphy and Peter Murphy who attended a Farm Biosecurity Seminar organised by IRD and the XLVets Network.

XLVets

Over the past twelve months we teamed up XLVets to deliver three Skillnets funded workshops. The practical farm based training was delivered by vets and industry experts in order to improve livestock and business performance in Duhallow. The workshops focused on farm Biosecurity, Calf Birth to Weaning and Fertility Management. We specifically targeted farmers on Farm Assist, farmers actively participating on the Rural Social Scheme and Focal Farmer members. Guest speakers included: Jerry Crowley, Glenbow Veterinary Group and Ger Cusack, of the Comeragh Veterinary Group who are members of the XLVets network. Dairy Specialist with Teagasc Don Crowley, delivered a talk on Somatic Cell Count (SCC), the main indicator of milk quality. The above events attracted an audience of 220 farmers.

Farm Safety

By mid May of 2014, 12 people have lost their lives on farms in Ireland, which is a huge increase compared to the same period last year when 2 people died as a result of farm accidents. According to the HSA, tractors and machinery are the main cause of farm accidents in Ireland and elderly farmers and children are at particular risk. Tractors are potentially lethal and incidents involving tractors account for a very high proportion of serious accidents and fatalities among young people. For this reason a training course targeting 14-16 year olds was organised entitled "Safe Tractor Driving Skills for Teenagers". The main focus was to teach teenagers how to operate and drive tractors safely, with practical instruction being a key component of the training. FRS tutors Noel Fitzgibbon and Val O'Connor delivered both the theory and practical elements of the course, Kanturk Mart provided the training facilities and local Agricultural Contractor Eamon Tarrant very kindly gave us a loan of his tractor and dumper which enabled the teenagers to successfully complete the practical part of the course, in total twenty nine teenagers completed the training.



Local Farmers Dan O'Riordan, Richie O'Connor and Andrew Kelleher inspecting a correctly fitted slurry manhole cover during a recent Farm Safety Walk.



Val O'Connor of FRS Training and local tractor and farming enthusiast Hugh O'Keefe Newmarket during the Safe Tractor Driving Skills for Teenagers

Agriculture

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 FBD. This year's conference highlighted the issues of concern for women directly involved in farming. Among the items discussed at the event were succession planning, physical and mental health and current policy issues in agriculture. Elma Walsh, mother of the Late Donal Walsh addressed the conference, Donal who fund raised tirelessly while battling Cancer has now had the Donal Walsh #Livlife Foundation set up by his family primarily in order to promote his anti-suicide Livlife message.



Abbie Shannon, Winner of the Supreme Pony Championship at Newmarket Show



Robert Coleman of Coleman Agri Solutions with his LEADER Funded Land Drain System.

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 Leader, First Aider, Sheila O'Keeffe, Siobhan McSweeney of the IFA Farm Family Committee and Charlie Bourke representing Coillte Outdoors. Over ninety farm and non farming families participated on the walk which coincided with National Trails Day in Duhallow.

Duhallow Beekeepers

For many people, thoughts of bees are often dominated by swarms of small yellow and black "bugs" that live in hives, 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 forty five registered 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: Redmond Williams Chairman of the Galtee Beekeepers Association, Noel Power of the Cork County Beekeepers and John Breen University of Limerick.

LEADER and Diversification

From a policy perspective the stimulation and support of farm diversification is clearly enshrined in the Rural Development Programme under the Axis 3 measure "Diversification into Non-Agricultural Activities". Farm diversification is concerned with improving the capacity of the farm, or farm resources, to meet the immediate and future needs of the farm household. Farming families in Duhallow are very fortunate to have the opportunity to apply for LEADER funding in order to diversify. In all, there have been eight projects funded under LEADER 07-13 including the development of Ballymaquirke Fruit Farm's delicious jams; self catering accommodations have been established by John Walsh, Declan O'Riordan, Stephen Walsh and Dan Collins; as well as the international event course at Kilguilkey House and an organic farm store being developed by Niall Moynihan. These activities combine well with farming and provide farm families with the opportunity to become sustainable.



Danny and Michelle Duloher of Kilguilkey Cecilstown received LEADER funding to develop a state of the art Cross Country Equestrian facility.



Con Guiney RSS Participant and Focal Farmer Member feeding his cattle in Rockchapel



Twenty nine teenagers who successfully completed "Safe Tractor Driving Skills for Teenagers"



Implementing Farm Safety... young farmer Donagh Corkery, Millstreet is complying with Health & Safety rules while helping his grandfather on the family farm

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.



The Blessing of the new Clara Cross, which was funded by LEADER. Crosses such as this have a huge history and attract tourists to visit these renowned sites.

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 'emigrant tourists' 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 from all over the world to return to 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 the LEADER funded amenities such as Ballyhass Lakes and Millstreet Country Park; and the equestrian facilities in the Green Glens Arenas and Kilguilkey House host a number of large scale events each year and have a strong foot hold in the domestic tourism market, attracting visitors from all over Ireland, and even further a field to events such as the National Pony Club Festival, the Annual Kite Fest, Monster Mac and Toughathalon, The Traditional Craft Festival, and both Millstreet and Kilguilkey House International FEI events. These festivals and regular events with their target audience provide excellent marketing and showcasing opportunities to sustain and grow all our products and activities for the future.

Accommodation

The shortage of accommodation within the region is 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. Amongst these include Conrad and Gisella Jones' Eco Pod Campsite, which is situated on the side of Musher 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 their the visitor's experience. Work is ongoing to establish a tourism network to support the tourism providers in promoting the region.



Conrad and Gisella Jones' Eco Pods, which offer a unique accommodation option for visitors to the Duhallow area.

The Duhallow Walkers

IRD Duhallow has developed a number of walks through the RSS Walks Scheme. In 2013, three Walking Leader training programmes were organised through the support of the LEADER programme. The course objective was to train walking leaders with the skills to lead tourists on walks, maximising their knowledge and familiarisation of the region thereby enhancing the visitor experience, whilst also providing employment and supplementary income opportunities. This led to the establishment of the Duhallow Walkers group, which allows walking leaders to further their skills as group leaders.

Members of the Duhallow Walkers Group receiving their certificates for completing Mountain Skills Training.



Kathleen O'Sullivan tends to Kieran Kelleher as part of the emergency first aid training programme run by the Duhallow Walkers.



Cultural Tourism

The culture of Sliabh Luachra is a unique selling point of the Duhallow region, the LEADER funded Cultural Centre of Excellence in Bruach na Carraige hosts weekly seisuins and visitors can also see the notable sites of Sliabh Luachra by touring on the Sliabh Luachra Cultural Trail, which was officially launched in October 2013.



Some of the large crowd in attendance at the launch of the Sliabh Luachra Cultural Trail.

Duhallow Cycling Sportive

Capitalising on the rising popularity of cycling, IRD Duhallow in conjunction with the Corkman host the first Duhallow Cycling Sportive in July. The series was officially launched by Minister of Tourism and Sport, Leo Vradker and the Duhallow Sportive is one of seven legs of the Skoda Cycle series. Visitors can choose from two routes of 100k and 50k taking in the finest of North Cork scenery.

The official launch of the Duhallow Cycling Sportive.



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. 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.



Thomas Ankettell, Angling Animator of the Duhallow Angling Centre of Excellence.

Working closely with Kanturk and District Trout Anglers, Tom Ankettell was appointed angling animator 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. However, there are other very important contributing factors for a successful angling centre such as the physical access, infrastructure, proximity to tackle shops, angling guides, boat hire, angler friendly accommodation and social amenities, which need to be supported and developed. Through collaboration of key stakeholders in the region, the support of the RSS and Tús 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 anglers and trainers. A programme of events has been planned and a full list of dates and events are available on our brochure.



Charlie O'Reilly from Lismire releasing a brown trout on the Allow river.



A brown trout from one of Duhallow's many beautiful rivers about to be released back to the water.



Duhallow Angling Summer Camp provided the opportunity for young people to learn the skill of fishing.

Most importantly, the majority of children from all social backgrounds can enjoy angling 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 also included riverside wildlife talks 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 25th of August 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 youths fly-fishing championships taking place in Poland this August. The Irish youth team is managed by Michael Twohig 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, Netherlands, Belgium, England, Germany, France and from the domestic market. Some of these visitors are repeat visitors which reflects the quality of our fishing. We are confident that this trend will continue and we will see a greater number of anglers continuing to visit the region over the next number of years.

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



Hugh Patrick O'Connor tying a artificial fishing fly during the Angling Centre of Excellence fly dressing classes.



Father and son Mike and Sean Doody from Knoxville, Tennessee, USA enjoying an angling trip to Duhallow.



Casting lessons for beginners of all ages provided by the Angling Centre of Excellence.

Culture and Heritage



Renowned Cullen Pipe Band Leader Con Houlihan demonstrating the bag pipes to Sinead Guiney and Jack Roche.

Built Heritage

The preservation 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 during 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'Keeffe Institute in Newmarket. Formerly known as Newmarket Court the building was built in 1725 by Isaac Rothery 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 farm buildings, with support from LEADER and with input from Tús and RSS 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 Buildings & 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 of Family and Genealogical Research Methods. Following on from the success of



Direct descendant of the Aldworths, Ben Stock, presenting ancient documents on the history of the Aldworths to IRD Duhallow's Helen O'Sullivan.



Participants who successfully completed a course on Digital Heritage studies.

these two programme and the significant interest locally in genealogy it was recognised that there was a need to continue to provide support to the group. The newly established Duhallow Ancestry and Genealogy group primarily aims to further develop the information available on notable families, groups and historical events of interest in the Duhallow region. Their first project is aptly on the Aldworth Family which links in perfectly with the restoration of the buildings on the grounds of the James O'Keeffe Institute. This group of trained and dedicated volunteers have worked tirelessly over the last 12 months in preparation for their first exhibition on the Aldworth family which will take place later this year and will provide the community in Duhallow with a greater understanding of one of the dominant families in the Duhallow region in the 18th and 19th Centuries.



Learners who finished their training programme specifically in Genealogy, Local History and Heritage.

Following research by the committee contact was made earlier this year with Mrs Janet Stocks, a descendent of the Aldworth Family, who has since deceased but who kindly donated a collection of documents and letters to the James O'Keeffe Institute which her family had in their possession for generations. Some of these letter date back as early as the 1700's and will be cared and treated properly before going on display at the Aldworth exhibition in the Autumn.



Chairman James Twohig, with members of the genealogy group studying material of the Aldworth family which dates back to the early 17th century.

Culture and Heritage



Millstreet Town Park Committee launching the 50th Anniversary commemorative publication "Down the Lawn, A History of Millstreet Town Park".

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. Every home 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.

Sliabh Luachra Cultural Trail

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

The Sliabh Luachra area is a bedrock of traditional Irish Music Song and dance and possesses a rare quality and distinctiveness. The Bruach na Carraige Heritage Centre in Rockchapel has become a hub for the Sliabh Luachra 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 Sliabh Luachra 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 Sliabh Luachra 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.

Bruach na Carraige was also successful in receiving a grant from the Heritage Council with the support of IRD Duhallow towards the digitisation of its archive which they have collected over the years including audio clips and



Diarmuid Lehane showing off his fiddle skills at seisuin in Bruach na Carraige.



Newmarket Pipe Band. Duhallow has a rich heritage of pipe bands, which perform at many festivals and events.



Visiting Choir Katarina Kammarkor from Sweden, who performed in the Church of the Little Flower as part of the Bealtaine Festival.

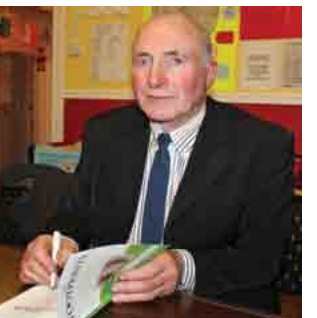
video clips of musical performances over the decades. This will greatly improve the quality of the archive and ensure that it is preserved for future generations.

Community Archiving

The wealth of culture and heritage of Duhallow is one of our most significant assets and IRD Duhallow has long recognised the importance of properly recording and preserving it for the future. Our Community Archivist has worked closely with groups such as the Duhallow Ancestry and Genealogy Group in advising them on specialist techniques. In addition, to this we recognise the importance of recording old stories, tales and customs before it is too late so that they are preserved and around for future generations. This is an ongoing process as further material is continually coming to light.



Community Archivists James Buckley and Evelyn McCauley work with many groups in the Duhallow area in the cataloguing of local records that will be preserved for future generations.



Donie Murphy of Newmarket at his book launch, which tells the story behind 'Footprints to Glenamuckla'.



Doing the rounds is traditional on May Day at the City in Shrone, which is the oldest site of continuous religious worship in the Western World.

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 supported and established with the help of the LEADER programme.

Community Laundry

The IRD 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 SAOI 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 linen, 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 demands, 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 Warmer Homes Scheme, 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 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.



CE participant Joan Sheehan carefully ironing in the Community Laundry.



Sarah O'Driscoll double checking the orders in the Community Laundry.



The home collection and delivery service ensures that older people and those who are not able to travel can avail of the Community Laundry.



Revamp Co-ordinator Gerard Murphy with the participants of the Furniture Restoration Project in the James O'Keeffe Institute.

Duhallow REVAMP – Recycle, Restore, Repurpose, Reuse

Duhallow REVAMP is a furniture recycling and re-use initiative which was established with 3 key purposes; providing sheltered training and employment opportunities, helping our environment by reducing land fill 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 Tús 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 showrooms 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, chest 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 new 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.



Denis O'Callaghan carefully restores a quadrant shaped glass cabinet.



Rory Walsh working on an ottoman.



Barry O'Shea and Ian Guiney working together to complete a display cabinet.

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 accessed 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 €10.3 million, three times the size of the previous programme. With animation and capacity building underway from early 2007, we were ready to start committing to projects early in 2009 when the Government finally signed the contract.



Dr. Brendan O'Keeffe, Eileen Linehan, IRD Duhallow, MEP Leadh Ni Riada, Sean Kelly, Kathleen Moylan and Jack Roche on a visit to Brussels to highlight issues facing rural communities in light of the governments Alignment proposals.

Jack Roche representing Ireland at the ELARD meeting in Brussels with Marie Fleming, IRD Duhallow.



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 2012 bringing our overall programme compliment to over €12.8 million.

Our LEADER targets have been realised through the measures of the programme which include Diversification into Non Agricultural Activities, Business Creation & Development, Basic Services for the Economy & the Rural Population, Encouragement of Tourism Activities, Conservation & Upgrading of Rural Heritage, Village Renewal & Development, Training, Implementing Co-operation Projects and Skills Acquisition & Animation.

8 Farm Families have received support to diversify and develop viable projects to supplement the farm income. These projects include 4 self catering accommodations, Ballymaquirke Fruit Farm, Danann Organic Farm and Kilgulleigh 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 indigenous companies provide sustainable employment in small rural areas. There is also a major shift towards Social enterprise, 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 and sick of the wider region as well as providing employment for the long term unemployed.

IRD Duhallow has long focused its tourism strategy on the development of our natural resources centering on the development of walks, cycling, equestrian facilities and angling. 38 tourism projects have received €1.8 million from LEADER.



Over 3,000 people took the streets of Dublin supporting the LEADER Rally.



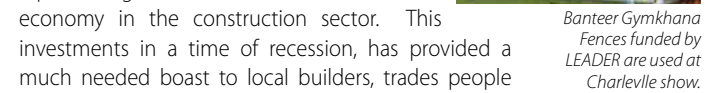
Minister Jimmy Deenihan officially opening Millstreet Astro Turf Pitch, with Deputy Aine Collins, Cllr. Gerard Murphy and Helen O'Sullivan, IRD Duhallow.

Since 2009, 92 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.



Over 800 people attended IRD Duhallow's "Putting People Straight About Putting People First" Information evening.

This programme has afforded Duhallow communities the opportunity to make significant improvements to their local facilities. 26 community halls have been refurbished representing a €3m investment in the rural economy in the construction sector. This investments in a time of recession, has provided a much needed boost to local builders, trades people and local building providers.



Banteer Gymkhana Fences funded by LEADER are used at Charleville show.

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 Carraige in the heart of the renowned Sliabh Luachra region and the Sliabh Luachra Cultural Trail, Freemount Cultural Centre, Laharn Cultural Centre and a number of development in Newmarket including the refurbishment of the old Convent Pantry, Smokehouse and Agri museum.

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

LEADER Projects 07-13

PROJECT PROMOTER	DESCRIPTION	€
Support for Business Creation & Development		
Agility Fitness Studio	The purchase of equipment.	€7,459.00
Allens of Allensbridge Ltd.	The purchase of new Rola Trac flooring.	€149,996.00
Allenweld Ltd.	To purchase a press brake & shears.	€56,662.00
Alu Cat	The development of Alu Cat.	€120,532.00
Ballydesmond Cemetery Committee	To develop Community Cemetery.	€150,000.00
Ballydesmond Leisure Ltd.	To develop an astro turf pitch.	€109,716.00
Bio Atlantis Manufacturing	The purpose of installing an automated packaging line.	€52,311.00
Care2Share	To purchase equipment for marketing presentations.	€324.00
Coleman Agri Solutions	To purchase machinery.	€25,000.00
Cube Business Consulting	Feasibility study on business consultancy.	€17,625.00
Dan Twomey	The purchase of equipment.	€40,000.00
Derry Fitzpatrick	To develop a prototype and to carry out a feasibility study.	€11,250.00
Duhallow Community Food Services	To develop a new chill & blast room, purchase of refrigeration & upgrade to canteen.	€84,594.00
Duhallow Innovation Centre	To develop a food innovation centre in Newmarket.	€148,024.00
Enterprise Development Working Group	To run two enterprise seminars.	€14,283.00
Fleur Daly	To purchase candle making equipment.	€20,796.00
Front Line Talent Agency	The purchase of marketing and promotional material.	€9,979.00
Glide Surfboards	To purchase a surfboard shaping CNC machine.	€21,375.00
Healy Sound Donoughmore	To purchase equipment.	€40,780.00
Hickey Metering	To fund the capital investment and to purchase specialised vessels.	€46,025.00
James Hickey	The purchase of equipment.	€21,059.00
Jeanette Dennehy	To refurbish the premises of Thoughts that Count.	€11,164.00
Jeremiah Dennehy	To develop a new facility and funding for equipment.	€90,503.00
Jerry Pat O'Leary	To develop a fitness studio in Millstreet.	€10,534.00
John McSweeney	Dev. of prototype for Milking Parlour Modular Precasting.	€40,166.00
Kevin Collins	Purchase of inflatables and equipment for Just 4 Leisure.	€50,000.00
Kiely Precision Engineering	To purchase equipment.	€6,631.00
Leo Fitzgerald	The purchase of recording equipment for a music studio.	€15,045.00
Maritime Tourism Ltd. & Ballyhass Lakes	The development of a long term strategic plan & CRM system.	€17,010.00
Millstreet Community Development Assoc. Ltd.	The development of E-centre.	€10,000.00
Murphy Trailers	The purchase of new equipment.	€59,214.00
Patricia O'Reilly	The purchase of exercise equipment for Cork Kangoo Jumps.	€12,194.00
Remote Healthcare	To carry out a feasibility study.	€30,000.00
Sapphire Signs	The capital works and equipment for the expansion and diversification.	€119,243.00
Sheila Carver	Marketing for corkentertainment.ie.	€1,335.00
Social Economy Working Group	To carry out an analysis and proposals for development for DCFS and Duhallow Farmers Market.	€4,410.00
Solido Flooring	The purchase of new equipment for Solido Flooring.	€12,584.00
The Night Owl Blending Co.	To carry out a feasibility study and to provide capital work.	€160,000.00
The Secret Garden	To construct a classroom facility, developing of outdoor demonstration area and to provide car park.	€16,100.00
Tintean Firewood	To develop and market Tintean Firewood.	€8,250.00
Diversification into Non Agriculture Activities		
Dan Collins	The development of a self catering accommodation at Dennehy's Lodge.	€39,900.00
John Walsh	The development of a self catering accommodation.	€22,500.00
Kilguilkey House	To develop a cross country facility as an alternative on-farm enterprise.	€62,755.00
Niall Moynihan	To develop an organic learning farm and shop.	€22,250.00
Patricia & Declan O'Riordan	The development of a self catering accommodation at Duarrigle Coach House.	€40,000.00
Patricia & Declan O'Riordan	The development of Duarrigle Walk.	€7,000.00
Peter McCabe	To fund the upgrading of the kitchen at Ballymaquirke fruit farm.	€11,422.00
Stephen Walsh	The development of a self catering accommodation.	€39,900.00
Basic Service for the Economy and Rural Population		
Banteer Community Centre	To fund phase one of the expansion of community facility to include changing rooms and gym equipment.	€143,140.00
Ballydaly Hall Committee	To install a new heating system in the community hall.	€4,035.00
Ballydesmond Community Centre Committee	The upgrading of the community hall.	€47,857.00
Banteer Community Council	Reroofing, new windows and car park at Banteer hall.	€62,250.00
Banteer Community Sports Field Ltd.	Repairs to Banteer Community Sports Spectator Stand.	€4,436.00
Bweeng Community Hall Committee	Developing an amenity area in Bweeng.	€37,256.00
Castlemagner Community Centre	To refurbish Castlemagner hall to include rewiring, reroofing and extension.	€4,657.00
Community Development WG	The development of media training facilities.	€25,477.00
Dromtariffe Parish Hall Association	The purchase of refurbishments in Dromtariffe Parish Hall.	€54,540.00
Duhallow Choral Society	The purchase of new equipment & uniforms.	€15,700.00
Duhallow Community Food Services	Kitchen equipment and enhancements.	€115,405.00
Duhallow Community Laundry	To establish a community led Laundry and Repair service.	€71,250.00
Freemount Community Dev. Association	Installation of new under floor heating for the hall and the purchase of over roofing.	€78,088.00
Freemount Community Playground Dev. Association	The development of a playground site.	€42,020.00

LEADER Projects 07-13

PROJECT PROMOTER	DESCRIPTION	€
Gneeveguilla Community Development Council	To establish a cultural amenity centre in Gneeveguilla.	€144,510.00
James O'Keeffe Memorial Foundation	Refurb. of kitchen in after schools building & installation of new windows & groundworks.	€42,372.00
Kanturk & District Community Council	The purchase of new figures for town crib.	€2,250.00
Kanturk & District Community Council Ltd	Materials for Kanturk Arts Festival and the purpose of refurbishing the Edel Quinn Hall.	€39,002.00
Kiskeam Development Association	To extend and refurbish Kiskeam Community Centre and to purchase furniture.	€85,724.00
Lismire Development Association	The development of picnic area and outdoor gym.	€20,514.00
Lyre Community, Cultural, Sport & Leisure Association	For the purpose of developing a new community facility on site of old schools.	€150,000.00
Meelin Community Sports Centre	Refurbishment to Meelin Community Sports Centre.	€109,885.00
Rathmore SAG	The purchase of stage equipment and editing software.	€11,196.00
Rockchapel Comhaltas Ceoilteoiri Eireann	Bruach na Carraige Extension Phase 2.	€10,732.00
Rockchapel Community Centre Committee	The purpose of refurbishing the Community Centre.	€30,938.00
SAOI Network	The construction of a meals centre in order to meet a need for additional meals on wheels in the Duhallow area.	€150,000.00
Social Economy WG	To fund equipment for the community enterprise DCFS.	€12,558.00
Youth and Education WG	To encourage young people to become actively involved in their communities.	€10,071.00
Village Renewal & Development		
Araglen Development Association	Landscaping of Glouneen river loop walk, to create a moveable stage and extension of Phase 2.	€125,832.00
Ballydesmond Community Centre Committee	To replace the windows and doors.	€6,082.00
Ballydesmond Community Development Ass.	Renewal works to the village.	€21,866.00
Banteer Community Sports field	To fund the upgrading of walks and resurfacing of Banteer Sports field Walk.	€36,996.00
Boherbue Dev. Association	Restoration of the village pump and urban renewal.	€2,238.00
Boherbue Grotto Subcommittee	To erect an altar at Boherbue Cemetery, to develop and enhance grotto in town.	€78,873.00
Boherbue Parish Hall	Refurbishment works to hall.	€150,000.00
Bweeng Community Hall Committee	To refurbish the toilets in hall, development of playground, to carry out a feasibility study and development of walk.	€137,174.00
Castlemagner Hall	Refurbishment of Castlemagner hall and to purchase a sound & lighting system.	€108,432.00
Community Development WG	Purchase and installation of media equipment & to design and erect Community Signage.	€65,000.00
Cullen Community Centre	To preserve and renovate Cullen Community Centre.	€150,000.00
Donoughmore Community Centre Ltd.	To develop a MUGA, resurfacing of car park, dev. of playground and sports field and refurb. of community centre.	€294,306.00
Donoughmore Village	To fund the General Appearance, Upgrading & Landscaping in Donoughmore.	€10,000.00
Dromtariffe Parish Hall Association	Refurbishment of Parish Hall.	€27,393.00
Foiloighig Development Association Ltd.	To renovate the old Foiloighig School and to erect signage.	€22,818.00
Freemount Community Development Association	To provide facilities in hall, to carry out a feasibility study and to develop and enhance the village amenities.	€99,600.00
Gneeveguilla Community Development Council	The purpose of undertaking a feasibility study of Gneeveguilla Community Centre.	€26,136.00
Kanturk & District Community Council	Development of stage lighting for the Edel Quinn hall.	€20,066.00
Kanturk Christmas Lights Dev. Association	The purchase of Christmas lights.	€37,896.00
Kilbrin Community Council	To refurbish Kilbrin Community Squash Courts and enhancement to village.	€6,889.00
Kilcorney Playground Development Group	To develop a playground in Kilcorney.	€38,751.00
Kiskeam Development Association	To carry out refurbishments in the hall, erection of footbridge and landscaping of village.	€88,836.00
Laharn Community Action Group	To undertake landscaping, groundwork and provide equipment at Laharn Community Centre and Cross.	€15,989.00
Lismire Development Association	The development of a community playground.	€38,769.00
Lyre Community Culture Sport & Leisure Association	To carry out a feasibility study on Lyre Village Green.	€4,230.00
Millstreet Community Council Ltd.	To redevelop the old tennis grounds into an astro turf amenity.	€75,000.00
Millstreet Tidy Towns & Tourism Association	To improve the general appearance of town & walk, through landscaping works, street furniture & lighting.	€17,520.00
Nadd Development Group	Landscaping in the Nadd village.	€2,100.00
Newmarket Community Development Association	To refurbish the CYMS Hall Newmarket.	€22,897.00
Newmarket Development Association	To undertake feasibility into the development of new community amenities in Newmarket.	€50,947.00
Newmarket Sports & Leisure Facility	To develop a community sports & leisure outdoor amenity for Newmarket and its hinterland.	€150,000.00
Newmarket Urban Renewal Project	Upgrade town park, signage and lighting.	€31,241.00
Rathmore Community Council	To fund Playground, Village Renewal Analysis and to provide lighting from Rathmore to Church Place.	€160,000.00
Rockchapel Community Centre Association	Reroofing and to fit new windows and doors and the purchase of trestle chairs.	€34,917.00
Rockchapel Dev. Association	To renovate and upgrade the community amenity located at the boundary of the three counties.	€9,291.00
Conservation & Upgrading the Rural heritage		
Aubane Social Club	To host the centenary celebrations of the Old School.	€2,470.00
Ballydesmond Dev Association	Publication of the book 'Ballydesmond; A Rural Parish in its Historical Setting'.	€3,609.00
Ballyhass Parent & Toddler Group	Publication of Ballyhass Family Cook Book.	€2,141.00
Banteer Ploughing Association	Celebrating 50 Years of Ploughing.	€6,909.00
Boherbue Dev Association	To fund the publication of the book 'Boherbue Village – All About Townlands'.	€4,496.00
Boherbue Parish Council	Publication of the history of the parish of Boherbue and Kiskeam.	€4,404.00
Boherbue Parish Hall Committee	To purchase equipment for Boherbue Parish Hall.	€37,127.00
Castlemagner Sinsir	Historical DVD on Castlemagner and publication of Castlemagner: A Pictorial History.	€8,289.00
Centenary Committee of the Infant Jesus Sisters	Research and Publish book and DVD on the Infant Jesus Sisters.	€59,552.00
Community Development WG	Dev. of Cork Choral Fringe Festival, producing of booklets & to fund marketing and signage & dev. of smoke house & disability access.	€53,133.00
Community Forum	Development of three websites & agri museum.	€121,050.00
Cullen Pipe Band	Development of new band practice hall, new uniforms, new instruments and new equipment.	€98,782.00
Cumann Luachra, Rathmore	Purchase of stage equipment, publication of the 14th, 15th and 16th issues edition of the Sliabh Luachra Journal.	€25,306.00
Donie Murphy	To fund publication of the Great Famine in Duhallow and the events of the Land Wars book.	€8,550.00
Donoughmore Community	Development of Donoughmore Community Carnival.	€5,111.00
Donoughmore Historical Group	Publishing of 1,500 copies of a historical book.	€6,352.00

LEADER Projects 07-13

PROJECT PROMOTER	DESCRIPTION	€
Dr. Mary Joyce Leader	Publication of bilingual children's book.	€4,276.00
Dromtariffe Actively Retired	Publication of "How it Was, a Glimpse at Life and Traditions of Bygone Days in Rural Ireland".	€3,862.00
Duhallow Womens' Forum	Sculpture of Sr Mary MacKillopp at the JOK and to produce book in honour of Nora Herlihy.	€95,374.00
Environment WG	Development of Environmental Resource Centre to carry out Bird Watching Field Trips, raptor & Barn Owl conservation project.	€83,473.00
Environment WG	Preservation works of old pantry	€38,497.00
Environment WG	To carry out an Analysis & Development study on the Boglands of Duhallow & conservation of hedgerows & development of old courtyard.	€159,944.73
Fr. John J. O' Riordan	Publication of book "Kiskeam Versus The Empire."	€1,949.00
Freemount CCE	To redevelop and extend Freemount Heritage Centre and to fund sound & lighting of centre.	€88,142.00
Gerard O'Keeffe	To publish the book 'Termination of the Lethal Injection'.	€4,636.00
Glash Dev. Association	To carry out an analysis and development of conservation of Old School House at Glash.	€180,000.00
Gneeveguilla Community Council	Publication of a book on History of St Josephs Church Rathmore.	€3,730.00
Gneeveguilla National School	To produce a Mural.	€450.00
Inchemay Historical Society	Erection of War of Independence monument.	€8,477.00
James O'Keeffe Memorial Foundation	Feasibility study and car park development.	€180,000.00
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
Kanturk Angling Club	The development of a weir on Dalua river and restoration of the Dalua River.	€43,982.00
Kanturk Town Twinning	Publication of book on history of twinning.	€2,025.00
Kilbrin Community Council	To carry out a feasibility study and the restoration of Dr. Croke's House.	€165,996.00
Kilcorney Community Council	The development of Kilcorney Community Feis.	€1,362.00
Laharn Community Action Ltd	Upgrading and landscaping works at Laharn Cross.	€9,606.00
Meelin Hall Committee	Publication of historical book 'Meelin's Journey'.	€6,300.00
Millstreet Town Park Committee	History of Millstreet Town Park.	€4,496.00
Newmarket Pipe Band	Publication of book on the history of the Pipe Band.	€3,163.00
Rockchapel Development Association	The History of the Parish of Rockchapel.	€6,300.00
SAOI Network	To host the Duhallow Bealtaine Festival.	€22,500.00
Tullylease Community Council	Restoration of Tullylease Banding Site.	€24,172.00
Youth & Education Working Group	Folklore project in Sliabh Luachra Primary Schools & Development of meeting room facilities.	€63,159.00
Training & Information		
Agriculture WG	To carry out counter balance forklift training.	€4,500.00
Agriculture WG	Development of a Grow it Yourself group & associated training.	€3,200.00
Community Development WG	To deliver a Script Writing Training Course.	€6,060.00
Community Development WG	To provide training for both the Domestic Violence & Bereavement Support Service.	€14,100.00
Community Development WG	To deliver programmes in Genealogy & Local History studies.	€51,199.00
Community Development WG	To run training programs in Oral Heritage Studies.	€65,201.00
Duhallow Choral Society	To run training for the Duhallow Choral Society.	€6,000.00
Duhallow Womens' Forum	To deliver Personal Development Training Courses.	€22,695.00
Employment & Training WG	To deliver various courses in computer applications.	€40,920.00
Employment & Training WG	To deliver two Water Meter Installer Training Courses.	€31,250.00
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 training courses in Accounts Administration.	€10,020.00
Employment & Training WG	To deliver training on Business Skills with Career & Social Media Networking.	€14,020.00
Employment & Training WG	To provide financial accounts training.	€6,620.00
Employment & Training WG	To provide training in the area of furniture recycling/restoration & upholstery.	€41,139.00
Employment & Training WG	To fund a Pre Start Up Business Programme.	€6,780.00
Employment & Training WG	To fund a Duhallow Digital Heritage & Tourism Course.	€5,240.00
Employment & Training WG	To fund Duhallow Historic Graves Equipment & a training programme in Historic Graveyard surveying.	€67,876.00
Employment & Training WG	To provide training & equipment for chainsaw course.	€9,200.00
Employment & Training WG	To provide specific training to equip managers.	€35,995.00
Employment & Training WG	To provide training in Book keeping, training on Taxation, CV & Interview guidance & Social Media Networking.	€61,844.87
Employment & Training WG	To provide Supervisory Management Training.	€7,100.00
Employment & Training WG	To deliver two domestic Digital Terrestrial Television Aerial Installation Training Courses.	€18,830.00
Employment & Training WG	To provide training in the area of upholstery.	€10,800.00
Enterprise Development WG	To support the training of at least 50 eligible start-up and expanding enterprises.	€52,171.00
Enterprise Development WG	To design and deliver a bespoke eco tourism training course in Duhallow.	€45,349.00
Enterprise Development WG	To run a Self Employment Opportunities Programme.	€3,930.00
Enterprise Development WG	To develop and deliver two walking leader training programmes.	€16,000.00
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 a training programme for Successful Selling.	€6,790.00
Enterprise Development WG	To develop and deliver a training programme for Festivals.	€3,000.00
Environment WG	To deliver information seminars, lectures, workshops, training, demonstrations and environmental field trips.	€9,081.00
Environment WG	To deliver a programme to train people in waste, water & energy reduction.	€4,350.00
James O Keeffe Foundation	To purchase equipment to upgrade the facilities in the computer lab for the JOK Foundation.	€20,000.00
Millstreet LTV2 Committee	The purchase of new equipment.	€15,435.00
Rockchapel Comhaltas Ceoilteoiri Eireann	To fund the master class training on traditional music and dance.	€19,870.00
Rural Development Bursaries	Bursaries for 4 Diplomas & 2 Degrees in Rural Development.	€30,660.00

LEADER Projects 07-13

PROJECT PROMOTER	DESCRIPTION	€
SAOI Network	To deliver training workshops to older people in Duhallow.	€6,000.00
SAOI Network	To deliver a Memory Through Media training programme.	€65,545.00
SAOI Network	To deliver two reminiscence training progs. for Leaders.	€4,110.00
SAOI Network	To deliver two Third Age training programmes.	€10,055.00
SAOI Network	To deliver 10 training courses on Photography and ICT.	€11,274.00
SAOI Network	To deliver a Media/ICT Mentor training Programme.	€6,160.00
Youth & Education Working Group	To deliver Arts Education Programme in Primary Schools.	€7,000.00
Youth & Education Working Group	To deliver 5 Youth Leadership Programmes.	€59,668.00
Encouragement of Tourism Activities		
Anna Leader Self Catering	The development of Self Catering accommodation.	€39,999.00
Ballyhass Lakes	To purchase activity equipment.	€86,876.00
Banteer Community Sports field	The development of Banteer Outdoor Gym.	€8,734.00
Banteer Gymkhana Ltd.	Purchasing of equipment for gymkhana.	€20,000.00
Community Development WG	Duhallow Walking Map Guides.	€3,534.00
Community Development WG	Feasibility study on Newmarket Pitch & Putt Course.	€9,000.00
Community Development WG	The development of Newmarket Amenity Walk.	€74,075.00
Community Development WG	Facilitation of projects under the Gathering 2013.	€46,500.00
Conrad and Gisella Jones	Feasibility and development of Eco Pods in Mushera.	€58,602.00
Dan Murphy	The development of a Self Catering townhouse.	€39,999.00
Donoughmore Community	The development of a Community Walk.	€41,349.00
Enterprise Development WG	To organise a Cycling Sportive.	€3,750.00
Enterprise Development WG	Capital Work and development of the Paps Loopwalk.	€70,000.00
Enterprise Development WG	Purchase of shell stands for the hands of Duhallow.	€25,111.00
Enterprise Development WG	To fund the exploration of new and emerging tourism markets in Duhallow.	€30,000.00
Freemount Community Development	For the revival of the Freemount Community Festival.	€4,583.00
Freemount Macra na Feirme	To host a festival with a large range of activities for age groups.	€6,637.00
James O'Keeffe Memorial Foundation	To purchase a marquee and jumps for the Duhallow Arenas.	€98,379.40
Kanturk & District Community Council	Publication of Historical Walking Guides of Kanturk.	€2,000.00
Kanturk and District Anglers	Development of the Angling Centre Of Excellence.	€80,000.00
Kanturk Angling Club	Enhancement work to Banteer Pond & river.	€30,000.00
Kanturk Velodrome Committee	Development of an off road cycle track.	€149,863.00
Laharn Community Action	To extend the existing red route walk on Mount Hillary to incorporate the cross at the top of the mountain.	€4,569.00
Meelin Community Centre Committee	To fund the revival of a 3 day festival.	€4,375.00
Millstreet Community Council Ltd	To replace the existing cross on the top of Clara Mountain.	€3,953.00
Millstreet Country Park	Marketing for Millstreet Country Park.	€80,160.00
Millstreet Horses Ltd.	Stables for the Green Glens.	€150,000.00
Newmarket & District Agricultural Show Committee	Running the Newmarket and District Agricultural Show.	€9,350.00
Newmarket Community Development Association	To develop Newmarket Pitch and Putt Course, to provide Maintenance Equipment, Seating & Playing Equipment.	€200,000.00
Rockchapel CCE.	To extend Bruach na Carraige Rockchapel.	€49,308.00
Thomas Ankettell	Development of Self Catering accommodation.	€39,999.00
Co-operation Projects		
All Kerry Tourism	The development of a tourism website.	€10,000.00
Agriculture WG	To provide a stand at National ploughing championships.	€600.00
Agriculture WG	Training for rural abattoirs.	€8,500.00
Community Development WG	The development of the Duhallow 'Day of The Regions' Festivals.	€80,000.00
Economic Development Steering Group	Tech. Study Economic Development Kerry & Duhallow.	€30,000.00
Enterprise Development WG	To deliver a young Entrepreneurial Programme for 5 secondary schools.	€48,340.00
Kerry Graveyards Steering Committee	Digitising of graveyards in Kerry.	€1,000.00
SAOI Network	Memory through Media Transnational project.	€9,502.00
St. Joseph's Foundation	The development of St Josephs Equestrian Centre.	€35,000.00
TO Steering Committee	Evaluation of the Towards Occupation Initiative.	€2,700.00
Youth & Education WG	Secret Music Festival Transnational Project.	€34,443.00
Youth Education Program	Steering Committee To conduct an assessment of YEP.	€1,045.00
Skills Acquisition & Animation		
Community Development WG	Provision of a Built Heritage Conservation and Restoration Mentor Panel.	€6,995.00
Community Development WG	Provision of two Community Archivists and a Heritage Animator.	€110,000.00
Employment & Training WG	Animating employment opportunities in Furniture Restoration.	€17,933.00
Enterprise Development WG	Provision of a Angling Centre Animator.	€35,000.00
Enterprise Development WG	To develop an Enterprise Conference for Duhallow.	€9,239.00
Environmental WG	To fund engineering work with communities regarding heritage & environment and oversee conservation measures.	€40,000.00
Annex 1		
Cronin's Rural Abattoir	Upgrading of Abattoir Facilities.	€10,488.00
TOTAL		€ 10,373,712

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 identify that Micro Enterprises need 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 300 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 plays a key role in training rural business owners.

Derry Fitzpatrick examines the prototype for his feasibility study with Tadhg Twomey from Van Halen.



Fleur Daly received LEADER funding to develop her business Bluebelle Eco Candles.



TRAINING

One of the skills of any entrepreneur is to keep up to date with current thinking, trends and business acumen. Recognising this, IRD Duhallow through the LEADER programme regularly organises training programmes to up skill 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.



Councillor Dan Joe Fitzgerald presenting a certificate to female entrepreneur Sheila Carver from Corkentertainment.ie who successfully completed a training programme in Practical Social Media Training.



Graduates of the LEADER funded Successful Selling Training programme who improved their sales and marketing techniques to close that all important deal.

MENTORING

The IRD Duhallow Business Training Supports programme is a key element of our business support policy. Here, businesses can receive up to 10 hours one to one time 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.



Caroline Boland from Boland Marketing meets with Stephen Dodd, through the mentoring programme, supporting him in the establishment of his new business.

LCDP 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. Mentoring, 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 Enterprise Support Grant, which replaced the Technical and Training Fund. This fund allows for BTWEA clients to apply for a grant of €2,500 across a number of start up costs such as insurance, marketing, equipment and training.



Michelle Enright and Teresa O'Sullivan established their new business 'Celebrate Party Planning' with the support of the Local Community Development Programme.



LEADER funded Paul Smith putting the finishing touches on one of his bespoke surfboards.

Enterprise

ENTERPRISE AND INTER AGENCY CO-OPERATION

IRD Duhallow, as a front line service provider for rural enterprise, is the first point of contact for many prospective entrepreneurs. IRD Duhallow provides initial support and animation for businesses and then liaises closely with other agencies to ensure the best service provision for all enterprises in the Duhallow region. The project evaluation committee evaluate and refer projects to other funding authorities.

The Cork County Economic Development fund is one of these initiatives, where a number of projects have been scrutinised by our board, deemed eligible for referral, and recommended for approval of funding. Projects referred include Alu Cast, Brogeen Crafts and Duhallow Headstones.

Access to finance for start up businesses can be a huge stumbling block, and IRD Duhallow is now working with Micro Finance Ireland to evaluate and pre-approve loans of up to €25,000. Eligible applicants must have firstly been refused from another lending institution, and loans are offered at a rate of 8.8% APR.



The Millstreet Country Park stand at LEADER village in the National Ploughing Championships saw many notable faces stop by including Sean Kelly MEP.

THE NATIONAL PLOUGHING CHAMPIONSHIPS

The LEADER Village at the National Ploughing Championships provides the opportunity to showcase nationally the impact and success of the LEADER programme. This year, both Millstreet Country Park and Duhallow Community Food Services represented IRD Duhallow LEADER Projects. The LEADER village is a focal point for many visitors featuring top quality craft and delicious artisan food products.

DUHALLOW BUSINESS AWARDS

Autumn 2014 will see the return of the Duhallow Business Awards in association with the Corkman. These prestigious awards highlight the many local businesses and promote entrepreneurship and business



Minister Jimmy Deenihan and invited guests Cllr Gerard Murphy, Lorcan McLoughlin, Aidan Walsh, Canon Jackie Corkery and Maura Walsh, with Jeremiah and Mary Dennehy at the Official Opening of Brogeen Crafts.

acumen. Categories include; The Best Agri Related Industry, Best Start Up SME, Customer Service, Best Established Business, Best Women Led Business and Best Community Enterprise. The Awards will be announced at a gala banquet held in the James O'Keeffe Institute.



Trudy Taylor from Kilcaskin Crafts had a wide variety of home made ornaments on display at the Hands of Duhallow Craft Fair.

CRAFT

The Hands of Duhallow Annual Craft Fair, affords local craft workers with the opportunity to sell and display their goods during the build up to the busy Christmas period. Funded through the LCDP 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.



Agnieszka Wardas and her daughter Martyna, proudly demonstrate their homemade soaps and bath bombs at the 2013 Craft fair.

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 continually widening in rural areas. In particular businesses face an uphill battle to survive and find it extreme difficulty 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 priority of rural businesses on a National scale.



'Look...No Hands!!!!' Alex Bourke whizzes across on the LEADER funded Zip Wire over Ballyhass Lakes.

Community Development



As part of An Taisce National Spring Clean; Kitty Kealy, Karen O'Donoghue and Julie Kealy litter picking in Banteer.

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 aim to improve the quality of life for the people living in Duhallow. LEADER has been key in the development of these regions with over €3m being invested in Duhallow's rural economy in the refurbishment of 26 community halls. Our Rural Social Scheme and Tús workers provide caretaking and maintenance for our towns and villages and thus community volunteers can focus their energies and time on development strategies for the areas. This ensures that communities continue to develop and grow and this is facilitated through the animation and capacity building efforts of our development staff.

IRD Duhallow's Community Development Working Group focuses on the Carnegie Charter for Rural Communities, which identifies assets as the key to development of communities.

Participative and Representative Democracy

Best practice is increasingly concerned with the devolution of power and control towards the citizen, with communities moving from being reactively involved in the creation of government programmes to



Maura Walsh cutting the ribbon at the official opening of Donoughmore Community Centre.



Minister Jimmy Deenihan and the official opening of the rejuvenated Square in the centre of Millstreet Town.

becoming 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 base, 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.

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 the wheels are in motion to involve all communities in the planning process for the next LEADER programme. Since early 2013 IRD Duhallow has been seeking the views of communities and groups through consultation on what enhancements, ideas and projects could be strategically developed to benefit communities throughout the region. All communities are being facilitated to develop community plans which will set out a long term vision for the specific local areas which relates to all aspects of community life and which also involves people working together to plan and deliver projects which will make a real difference to their lives. This will feed into both the strategic plan for the new LEADER programme 2014-2020 and the new Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP).



With the assistance of IRD Duhallow's LEADER funding, Newmarket CYMS hall and undergone major reconstruction.



Ben Drishlane, Sheila O'Keeffe and Nora Stokes at the Tullylease Banding Site LEADER project.

Community Development



Co-operation Ireland Chairman Christopher Moran, Derry City Council Mayor Cllr Martin Reilly, IPB Chief Executive Ronan Foley and Chairman of the Pride of Place Committee Tom Dowling, Mayor of Cork County, Cllr. Noel O'Connor and Louis Duffy, Director of Services with representatives from Donoughmore Community Centre Runners-up of Pride of Place 2013.

Communities in the Spotlight

The 2013 All Island Pride of Place Award winners were announced at a gala awards ceremony in Derry in November. The All-Island Pride of Place Competition is an initiative that was put in place to celebrate and reward community development activity throughout the island of Ireland and to further encourage networking and information exchange between entrant groups. The community of Donoughmore received second place in the category of a population of 1,000 – 2,000 following an inspection from judges in July where an exhibition of all the different clubs in the parish displayed their achievements and presented on the vital contributions they make to their community. The efforts of the many different community groups within Donoughmore were supported with the assistance of IRD Duhallow's Rural Social Scheme and Tús participants who rowed in to prepare for the competition.



Kathleen Moylan and her family, Neil Moylan, Elaine White, Noeleen Buckley and Fiona Healy, at the annual Mayor's Awards, where she was named Cork County Volunteer of the Year.

In May 2014 local dedicated volunteer, Kathleen Moylan of Castlemagner received the Cork County Council Community Mayor's Individual Award for North Cork or her huge personal voluntary contribution to the region. Kathleen has been an excellent ambassador for her community in Castlemagner and IRD Duhallow's Saoi Network. Both Banteer and Bweeng Community Groups also received Certificates from the Mayor for the valiant work they do in their communities.



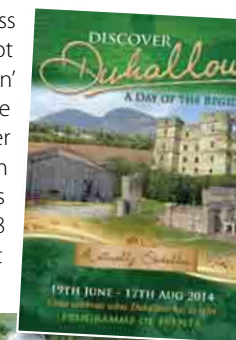
Cullen Community Centre, one of many community halls around Duhallow, that have been refurbished with LEADER funding. In this programme LEADER has funded 26 Community halls with an investment of over €3 million.



Yvonne Brosnan along with her three kids Elaina, Evan and Fia who attended the Ballydesmond's Day of the Region Event.

Transnational Projects

For the past 2 years communities across Duhallow have embraced the concept '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 Celebration. School Reunions, heritage events, family fun days, and community festivals were just a flavour of what was on offer.



Derek Hextall of Dumfries & Galloway, Monica Kennedy, Helen O'Sullivan and Sr. Maureen Cahill participating in the Scottish Day of the Regions Celebrations.



Miriam Angland attending Freemount Macra's Midsummer Festival which was funded by LEADER.

Community representatives from Duhallow visited our project partners in Dumfries and Galloway LEADER in Scotland in September to experience how community organisations there rolled out the initiative and to share learnings and experiences from previous events.

The Initiative continues for 2014 and has expanded with over 9 weeks of events being planned throughout the region. Communities have embraced this with many new events planned for this summer, one of which will be an occasion to extend a very warm welcome for our project partners from Dumfries and Galloway in Scotland, who are visiting during July.



Kiskeam Community Centre recently renovated with LEADER funding.

Local Community Development Programme



Maura Walsh, IRD Duhallow greets President Michael D. Higgins and his wife Sabina at the National Ploughing Championships 2013.

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 SAOI 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 Article 6 Programme for Low Income Smallholders, The Towards Occupation Programme for People with mental ill health, Dormant Accounts Funding for Carers and Benefit4 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 LCDP 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 by rurally isolated low income smallholders.



Maura Walsh IRD Duhallow CEO with the Board advisory group comprising of the former Company Chairmen; Don Crowley, Tim Lucey, Michael Twohig, Cormac Collins, Jack Roche, John J. Moynihan and Jerry Sheehan. (Missing from photo is Derry Fitzpatrick).

With the onset of LCDP in 2010, there was a marked shift away from "community" towards jobs and employment with 80% of an already diminished budget being ear marked for enterprise and employment actions. It has made it difficult to maintain our existing services, which are locally relevant. While nationally, government policy is to promote jobs and employment, in Duhallow many of the problems we faced in the boom times are the same as in the downturn given the peripheral

location of Duhallow and the fact that the Celtic Tiger never really reached the region. In some instances, problems of the long term unemployed are intensified as government policy shifts the focus of its programme towards those that have become unemployed since the downturn. IRD Duhallow has long advocated flexibility in programmes that can deliver innovative solutions and are locally relevant for the problems faced by this region.

2014 is the final year of LCDP and from 2015, SICAP will be the successor programme to LCDP.



Tánaiste Joan Burton presenting at the Care & Repair Conference.



Triona Murphy and Louise Bourke IRD Duhallow, with the TY students of Millstreet Community School 'taking a selfie' as part of the youth video #YOLODUHALLOW.

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 exclusion and equality issues.

Goal 2

To support individuals and marginalised target groups experiencing educational disadvantage so they can participate fully, engage with and progress through life-long learning opportunities through the use of community development approaches.

Goal 3

To engage with marginalised target groups/individuals and residents of disadvantaged communities who are unemployed but who do not fall within mainstream employment service provision, or who are referred to SICAP, 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.



Marianne Kean's poster which was part of the Integration Implementation Group campaign aiming at promoting Cultural Diversity & Integration in Kerry. 'It's simple....Some see differences. Some see friends. Let's all respect cultural diversity.'

Local Community Development Programme FUNDS COMMITTED TO PROJECTS JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2013

GOAL	ACTION	DESCRIPTION	COMMITTED
Goal 1: To promote awareness, knowledge & uptake of a wide range of statutory, voluntary & community services	Information Dissemination Bereavement Support Group	IRD Monthly Newsletter Bereavement Phone Bereavement Meetings/Support I ASIST	€8,494.21 €201.75 €237.25 €767.01 €184.09 €256.45
	Domestic Violence Support Group	Domestic Violence Helpline Phone Meetings/Postage	
Goal 2: Increase access to formal & informal education, recreation and cultural activities & resources	Adult & Second Chance Education	Upcycling/Recycling Training Course Bursary for Theresa Collins Meelin Computer, Internet & Email Training Basic Computer Training Course Introduction to Accounts/Bookkeeping Bursary for Noreen Courtney Bursary for Dan Hassett Bursary for Karen Maher Bursary for Stephen Dunleavy Bursary for Chris Murphy Bursary for Cathal Cotter Bursary for Jacqueline Gilligan Bursary for Brendan Lyons Bursary for Thomas O'Keefe Bursary for Robert Wallace	€750.88 €180.00 €515.00 €150.00 €896.60 €500.00 €180.00 €500.00 €180.00 €500.00 €0.00 €500.00 €500.00 €220.00 €500.00
	Empowerment of Youth	Meetings Careers Exhibition 2013 Donoughmore Basketball Club Boherbue Community Playground	€22.35 €309.00 €1,119.00 €1,073.00
	Preventing Early School Leaving	Colaiste Treasa Afterschools Programme Scoil Mhuire Afterschools Programme Boherbue Comprehensive Afterschools Programme Scoil Phobail Sliabh Luachra Afterschools Programme Millstreet Youth Club Afterschools Programme St. Lachteens Afterschools Programme Literacy Support Programme Jan - May Literacy Supports Awards night Literacy Training Literacy Support Programme Sept-Dec	€3,360.00 €1,680.00 €1,615.95 €2,520.00 €418.95 €1,120.00 €4,700.00 €685.27 €1,212.00 €4,732.00
	Summer Camps	Laugh & Learn Summer Camp	€737.00
	New Communities & Migrant Workers	Multicultural Christmas Days Millstreet Multicultural Event	€500.00 €800.00
	Resources to Groups	Equipment for Duhallow Boxing Club	€2,673.00
	Supporting Volunteerism	Cork Volunteer Bureau Kerry Volunteer Centre	€3,096.00 €775.00
	Job Centre	Meetings/Newspapers Career 2 Fit Programme	€278.00 €3,300.00
	Preparation for Employment & Enhancing Employability	Recognition of Learning Ceremony 2013 Renewal of Pathfinder + HE Licence Understanding Mental Health - FETAC Level 5 Working Group Meetings T.O. Sewing and Upholstery Training T.O. Transport T.O. Horticulture Training T.O. Evaluation Launch & Promotion Food Safety Training	€575.01 €280.53 €2,720.00 €6.40 €700.00 €2,453.94 €700.00 €1,143.06 €1,258.45
	Enterprise Supports	Beekeeping for Beginners Training Seminar on Managing Lameness in Cattle Agri Working Group Meetings Focal Farmer AI Focal Farmer Milk Soil Sampling Focal Farmer Programme/Tunnel Farmers Market Equipment for ICU Security XLVETS Seminar Seminar in Somatic Cells Women in Agri Conference ILDN Job Path Shirley Nagle - Start Up Business Willie John Sheill - Start Up Business	€130.00 €215.00 €31.20 €10,176.66 €7,409.44 €852.64 €60.40 €798.22 €500.00 €150.00 €150.00 €715.00 €1,000.00 €500.00 €1,000.00
	Community Enterprise	Community Laundry Start Up DCFS	€1,000.00 €1,925.00
	Craft & Enterprise Network	Craft & Enterprise Meetings Craft Fair	€481.20 €1,198.00
Goal 4: Promote engagement with policy, practice and decision making processes on matters affecting local communities	Issue Based Fora	Internet Safety for Parents Self Care & Wellbeing workshop Subscriptions Community Meetings Carers meetings Saoi Meetings PAL Meetings Duhallow Womens Forum Meeting Managing Stress Seminar Carers Cookery Night Information Seminar on Parenting Alzheimers' Tea Morning Community Forum Carers Coffee Morning Carers Craft Night PAL Outing to Grenagh Farm Carers Annual Outing PAL Rights and Entitlements WRAP Multicultural Christmas Days PAL Christmas Outing Publication of Book by Margaret O'Sullivan Meetings & Publications	€309.50 €440.01 €200.00 €281.40 €180.55 €117.25 €36.75 €28.80 €405.00 €156.58 €260.00 €100.00 €60.00 €110.00 €98.00 €200.00 €200.00 €270.00 €425.00 €1,000.00 €400.00 €750.00 €80.60
	Empowerment of Older People	Care & Repair Phone/Meetings "Living with Arthritis" Health Seminar Saoi Meals Duhallow Community Food Services Supports to the Elderly	€337.30 €210.00 €340.50 €778.46
	Empowerment of People with disabilities	Seminar on Budget 2013 Impacts Disability & Wider Community Assistive Technology for 2nd Level Students Sign Language	€315.01 €246.50 €785.00
		TOTAL:	€100,192.12

Equality and Social Inclusion



'Enjoying my First Christmas' meeting Mr & Mrs Clause as part of the Millstreet Multi Cultural Christmas.

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 or socialise which puts increasing pressures on the family and individual's mental health. While initiatives like those promoted and undertaken by the working group through LCDP, alleviate some of the issues for people, advocacy remains a priority. Our challenge is to support these target groups to deal with their situations so they can collectively speak up. Therefore in responding to people's needs, the Equality Working Group has provided supports for training, as well as addressing social issues and promoting equality.

The downturn in the economy has also seen all of our budgets shrink or disappear altogether and this is a constant challenge for the Equality Working Group. However they continue in their endeavour empowered by the knowledge that equality of outcome 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, open to all.

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.



Louise Bourke, IRD Duhallow with Members of Duhallow Carers presenting the proceeds of their Carers Week Coffee Morning to Neily O'Sullivan from St. Joseph's Foundation.



Maura Walsh, IRD Duhallow, with Minister Jimmy Deenihan, John Breen, Kerry County Council and Cllr. Michael Gleeson Mayor of Kerry with Maryanne Keane Lixnav, Teegan Meehan Ballybunion (overall winner) and Declan Sugrue Caherciveen from the Kerry Integration Poster Competition.

The SIM 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.



Maura Walsh making a presentation to Minister Jimmy Deenihan to thank him for his support in the Kerry Integration poster competition.

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.

Equality and Social Inclusion

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 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 to in-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



Members of the Duhallow Carers enjoying their annual summer outing.

Carers

The Duhallow Carers Support Group was established and supported by IRD Duhallow and it a support network for over a 100 family and voluntary carers providing peer support and relaxation time for people caring for others.

The Duhallow Carers Support Group provides peer support for carers, to provide a relaxing environment and to give members a much needed break from their caring duties, and most of all to up skill new carers and provide them with the relevant training and mentoring they need to carry out their duties to the best of their abilities. The group meets once a month to organise and facilitate these supports, equipping carers with the skills and the confidence to look after loved ones. Sign language courses continue to be popular, especially amongst young people as they strive to keep up contact with people in our community with hearing disabilities.



Eilish Murphy and Sheila Walsh receiving their certificates after successfully completing the Basic Sign Language Course.

IRD Duhallow supports the recent pre-Budget submission, titled 'Make Home Work', urging the Government to ensure that Family Carers have the resources, services and supports necessary to care with confidence and safety in the home.

The ongoing support of the Duhallow Carers Support group goes some of the way, but greater resources are needed, family carers provide an invaluable service to the State and society and need to be supported in their role.

Domestic Violence

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. 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/dating 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.



The 'Stanny Family' meeting Santa Clause in Rathmore.



Graduates of the FETAC Level 5 'Understanding Mental Health Module,' creating awareness and understanding of the issues faced by people with mental ill health.



Scenes from the IRD Duhallow Victorian Tea Morning in aid of the Alzheimers Society of Ireland.

The International 16 Days of Action Awareness Campaign takes place every December and IRD Duhallow takes part annually. For 2013 an information seminar entitled "Home truths; Helpful ways to overcome the pressures facing families today" was held with guest speakers Margaret O'Connor, counsellor and mental health facilitator and David Holden, the Cork regional representative from St Vincent De Paul, both speaking on the extra pressures on families and the challenges many face in coping.

PAL

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.



Claire Fleming with her children Eoin, Mollie and Abbie on the PAL summer outing.

Employment and Training



IRD Duhallow IT participants; Rose Palmer & Lil Fleming, with Triona Murphy, IRD Duhallow, Kathleen Leahy, Carmel Conroy and Kay Cullinan, all from Age Action Ireland attending the National Digital Strategy celebration event in Dublin Castle.

The Employment and Training Working Group are conscious that the long term unemployed still account for approximately 59.9% of total unemployment and that the jobs market still continues to be variable. Young people under 25 years, lower skilled workers and crafts people have also been affected by the downturn and are operating in economic circumstances that have not been seen before. According to the census 2011 the unemployment rate for persons who had attained at most a primary education was 33.7%, this compares with an unemployment rate of 7.8% of persons with a third level degree or higher. Therefore, there is not only a need for re-training and up-skilling but also a need to provide an opportunity for some to gain a Leaving Certificate or equivalent and in many of these cases low self-esteem is also an inhibitor. IRD Duhallow has identified the need for skill specific training accompanied by actions to build the confidence of participants and to enable them to deal with challenges presented by difficult personal circumstances.



Working Group Chairs Anne Maria Bourke, John Kirwan, Michael Doyle, Dan Joe Fitzgerald and Judy O'Leary presenting at the IRD Duhallow Recognition of Learning Ceremony.

The working group has identified that the best approach to creating jobs and sustainable employment is through the skill specific training already mentioned and supporting micro enterprises, local entrepreneurship and inter-business networking from the LCDP.

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, NEKD, South Kerry Partnership, Ballyhoura Development, Clare Local Development, Laois Leader Partnership, Offaly Development and Kilkenny LEADER partnership submitted a tender under the Consortium name



Participants William Curtin, Neilly Cronin and Davie Joe Breen who completed their training in chainsaw cutting.

Trasna Services. The ten Local Development Companies that make up this consortium have over 20 years experience of working with the 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 23 years in many cases and averaging 15 years, illustrating their commitment, consistency and loyalty to the social and economic development of the region. It is expected that the winning contracts will be announced in July.

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 support in recruiting employment positions. From our experience to date the holistic approach is important to helping people overcome their barriers and building their confidence to rejoin the labour market. Clients need focused supports that are available both on a one to one and group setting. In the absence of a fulltime Local Employment Service we provide job placement, career advice, assistance with writing CVs and/or cover letters, interview preparation including mock interviews and interview skills which are increasing in demand as the job environment is exceedingly competitive.



Yvonne Brosnan assisting Michelle Cremin with CV preparation as part of IRD Duhallow's Job Centre Services to the unemployed.



Student placements who are getting hands on experience with IRD Duhallow – (left to right) Emma Aherne, CIT graduate, Sarah Wharton, IT Tralee, Brid O'Riordan, Mary I graduate, James Buckley UCC & WIT graduate, Mairead Enright, UCC graduate and Michelle O'Connor, IT Tralee.

Working with Enterprise - Internships and Apprenticeships

Fitting in with the origins of IRD Duhallow, the company acts as a centre of learning and excellence for interns and college students. Throughout the year we have many students come to further their studies and to practice the theory they are learning in College. The holistic approach adopted in the company means that students experience a range of integrated programmes and get a great flavour of what might interest them for their future careers. Amongst those include Sarah Wharton, (who is studying Social Care in IT Tralee) who worked on the LCDP and Towards Occupation Programme; Terrie Harrington (studying Wildlife Biology in IT Tralee) who worked with the Life+ programme on the schools and education initiatives; Brian O'Neill (studying Zoology in UCC), who worked on soil analysis and ecology surveys and Niall Moynihan (studying Environmental Science in UCC), who worked on the rivers and supported the LIFE analysis team.

IRD Duhallow was also delighted to this year welcome our first Jobs Bridge intern, James Buckley, who is working as part of the Community Archiving project. James has played a key role in archiving and the preservation of historical documents and photos as well as supporting the Duhallow Genealogy group.



Moira Murphy was presented with her certificate in the Management of Food Hygiene.

Employment and Training

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 in to the working environment. With a long history in the placement of students, 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'.



Louise Bourke with members of the Leargas study visit group in Bonn, Germany.

The study visit introduced us to greater potential of learning in the work place 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.



Juliette Gould who successfully completed her course in Taxation.

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 their organisation.

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 faced with multiple disadvantages the ability to access, participate and receive



Noreen Courtney who was received a bursary graduated as an Accounting Technician from the Institute of Public Administration.



Participants who successfully completed the Benefit III training course which is part of the National Digital Strategy to improve skills in IT.

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 III 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 III 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, a little knowledge on online banking, the use of Skype and uploading and accessing digital photography. The feedback from this training programme was extremely positive and greatly assisted people in their every day lives, even to simply communicate with family and to interact with grand children.



Rose Palmer being presented with her benefit III training certificate at the celebration of the 100,000 person being trained as part of the National Digital Strategy.

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.



Sergeant Dan Murphy presents the Garda Youth Award to Sergiu Healy representing Kanturk Foróige Club.

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 showcases 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 Castlemagner man Jason O'Sullivan. Already the video has achieved several thousand views and is quickly spreading the LEADER message, of improving the quality of life in rural areas, amongst young people.



IRD Duhallow Assistant Manager Eileen Linehan with DJ McSweeney Boherbue Comprehensive Vice Principal, awards sponsor Dan Murphy, Mary O'Keeffe Principal and Treasa O'Reilly presenting Mary Anne Stritch with the Student of the Year Award at the Boherbue Comprehensive Annual Prizegiving Ceremony.

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 in enabling young people to develop themselves and to realise their



Some of the graduates of the 13/14 Literacy Support Programme, pictured with Youth and Education Working Group Chairman John Paul O'Shea, Literacy Tutors Sinead Guiney, Noirin Murphy and Michelle Doyle, and Louise Bourke IRD Duhallow.

potential. Initiatives targeted at young people need be delivered in collaboration with local schools however early school leavers and other disadvantaged young people frequently have a negative attitude to school, so it is necessary to provide community-based options in order to be effective. Recognising this fact and the high number of early school leavers who leave school because of learning difficulties, the Working Group set about a three tiered targeted approach to tackling this through Homework clubs in schools, the Literacy Support Programme, and the Laugh and Learn Summer Camp.

Afterschools Homework Support

Educational attainment levels still lag well behind the national and regional averages in Duhallow and inter-generational educational disadvantage associated with early school leaving continues to pose a problem. IRD Duhallow's Afterschools home work Clubs provide hands on support to students experiencing difficulty in undertaking their studies. Homework clubs are provided in 4 of the secondary schools in the region, with Millstreet Parents Council also facilitating a community based homework club for their students. St Lachteen's National School in Stuake provides extra support to their students requiring help with their literacy and numeracy all of which will assist them when they continue into second level.



Mollie Herlihy receiving her award for 'Excellence in Literacy' from Cllr John Paul O'Shea.

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 focuses on supporting children with reading, writing, spelling, memory work and sequencing.

Touch Type Read and Spell

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

Laugh and Learn Summer Camp

The Laugh and Learn Summer camp integrates learning and fun. Aimed specifically at children with literacy difficulties, these week long camp, held annually in the month of July sees 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.



Taking a break in the sun! The children who attended the Laugh and Learn Summer Camp with teachers Eileen O'Regan and Anne Fitzgerald.

Youth and Education

Boxing 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 reaches 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.



'Packing a Punch' the Duhallow Boxing Club has gone from strength to strength since it started in 2011. The club has seen an increasing number of female members in the wake of Katie Taylor's success.

Your Turn Youth Leadership Programme

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 LEADER 2007-2013 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 consultation facilitated by the National Youth Council of Ireland where they will had an opportunity to voice their opinions and ideas on work (jobs, preparation for jobs, internships and apprenticeships), Youth enterprise (skills, challenges and opportunities) and Education.



Participants of the Your Turn Youth Leadership Programme with Community Advisors, as part of the Problem Solving Workshop.

Careers Exhibition

IRD Duhallow hosted its annual Career Exhibition in the Edel Quinn Hall, Kanturk for all Secondary Schools in Duhallow. Young people were facilitated to explore different education and training options



Wild Boar Productions carrying out their Flash Mob as part of YOLODUHALLOW!

with a broad range of Third Level Universities, Institutes 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.



Members of Banteer Foróige recording #YOLODUHALLOW in their native Glen Theatre.

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.

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 world and prepare for the workforce and family roles that they will assume as adults. 9 teams took part in IRD Duhallow's 8th annual Youth and Primary Schools Public Speaking Competition. St. Lachteen's of Donoughmore were the overall winners with Rathcoole and Liscarroll National Schools taking second and third place



Pupils from St. Lachteen's who won the IRD Duhallow Public Speaking Competition with their teacher Aislinn Sexton.



IRD Duhallow actively supports youth clubs and encourages children to participate in outdoor pursuits and sporting activities.

Equality for Women

Over the past 17 years, since IRD Duhallow established the Women and Childcare Working Group, it has also supported the IRD Duhallows 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 Womens 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 has allowed for follow 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 to meet 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 them 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.

Participants of the Grow Your Own Programme 2013, funded by the Equality for Women Programme.



Last year's Personal Development Course Participants with tutor Sheila O'Keeffe. Personal development courses are extremely popular and aim to empower women and develop their confidence.



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

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 AWARE has been delivered to 25 participants both male and female from a variety of backgrounds. This initiative was delivered over a six weeks 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 and other caring supports has long been cited as a key element to support working parents and those who wish to undertake training to enable them to re-enter the labour market. The seven Community Childcare facilities animated and supported by IRD Duhallow in their development continue to operate at full capacity. It will be the continuing aim of these community childcare facilities to ensure that access to childcare is facilitated for disadvantaged parents and to ensure that it is affordable and top standard. The Working Group understands all too well that quality childcare needs to be supported on an ongoing basis as it not alone benefits children, but their parents, employers and communities in general, as well as providing over 130 jobs in the Duhallow region.



Moria Murphy and Mary Brown, practising their bandaging skills on the Occupational First Aid Course.

Equality for Women

Information Seminars

A number of seminars were held during the year the highlight being the celebration of another great woman identified in our "Mna Duhallow" honours list. The late Julia Clifford is a renowned a notable fiddle player from Sliabh 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 Cranitch who provided an insight into what makes traditional Irish music so special and unique in the Sliabh Luachra area, Freemount 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.

Julia Clifford's Legacy lives on through the many fiddle players that continue to play her music.



Guest speakers and invited guests at the Julia Clifford night – Mary McHugh, Jack Roche, Con Houlihan, Maura Walsh, Matt Cranitch, Billy Clifford, Maurice O'Keeffe and Geraldine O'Callaghan.

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.



Future little chefs at the Easter Baking Camp.



Michele Doyle, Michael Doyle and Ann McMahon being presented with the Green Flag on behalf of the IRD Duhallow Afterschools by Dr. Mary Stack of the Cork County Council Environmental Department.

The service continues to operate under the Community Childcare Subvention Programme that operates on a tiered pricing policy where subsidies are offered to families in receipt of a social welfare payment or who hold a medical card ensuring that all families have the opportunity to access the service regardless of their financial position.



Green Fingers! Children at the Easter Camp getting stuck in, in the new IRD Duhallow poly-tunnel, which was funded by the Childcare Capital Grant!



Enjoying a sunny picnic at one of the Afterschools Facility's many Summer Camps.

The facility acts as a social outlet for children especially during the Easter, Summer and Halloween camps, which have grown substantially over the years. Arts and Crafts, baking, gardening and environment are but a few of the activities that children take part in.

In 2013 the afterschools was awarded a grant of €4,645 under the Childcare Capital Programme 2013 for the development of an outdoor sensory, edible garden and polytunnel, which the children love getting involved in and are in the process of developing.

Eileen O'Riordan prepares nutritious meals daily for the children in the Afterschools facility.



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 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 supports 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 the re-integration of 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.



Life Skills Mentor Ruth Cosgrave reviewing a utility bill with TO participants John Fitzgerald and Teresa Collins.



Participants of the TO explore recipe options at a Healthy Cooking on a Budget course.

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,



Participants who completed a FETAC Certified Module in Mental Health Studies.



TO Coordinator Triona Murphy and ICHAS student Aoife Douglas with TO participants proudly displaying their certificates at the Recognition of Learning Ceremony 2014.

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.



Participant John Browne and Denis Lane who is carefully cutting material for his upholstery project.



Tutor Michaela Donegan with TO participants who completed the Upholstery and Sewing Course.

Peer Support Education Programme

The literature surrounding peer support clearly demonstrates the importance of peer relationships for students when coping with the stresses of daily academic life. Research also indicates that in the extreme situation of suicide, suicidal young adults are more likely to talk about their problems with a peer than a parent, teacher, or counsellor. IRD Duhallow has been delivering the Peer Support Education Programme for the past seven years to Transition Year students. The five week community based training programme aims to improve communication skills amongst young people equipping them with the skills and knowledge required to support their peers in times of difficulty or crisis.

Mental Health and Towards Occupation Programme



Plant Sale - TO Participants sell some of the 'fruits' of their hard work which are growing in the polytunnel on the grounds of the James O'Keeffe Institute.

Wellness Recovery Action Planning (WRAP)

In response to an identified need IRD Duhallow facilitated WRAP workshops. The Wellness Recovery Action Plan or WRAP, is an evidence-based self management tool that is used world-wide by people who are dealing with mental health challenges as well as medical conditions such as diabetes, weight gain and pain management, and life issues like addictions, smoking etc. It was developed by a group of people who have a lived experience of mental health difficulties; people who were searching for ways to resolve issues that had been troubling them for a long time. WRAP can be used in a variety of situations to help people manage health concerns, deal with stress in their lives, cope with grief or to help with mental health concerns and many other live situations.



TO Learners from each of the 5 partner LDCs who deliver the Towards Occupation Programme in their respective regions attending the launch of the TO Evaluation

I ASIST and Safe Talk

With over 400 deaths from suicide annually in Ireland, it is estimated that there are also 10-30 times as many attempted suicides or episodes of deliberate self harm for every loss from suicide. In rural areas, where many individuals are socially isolated having very little contact with others, the risk of suicide and self harm for those who are more vulnerable is as present as ever. The continued closure of local services such as Garda Stations, Banks, Post Offices and Shops as well as the lack of employment opportunities in rural areas and financial pressures on many families, has not helped to lessen the risk of suicide. For many people who find themselves in these situations it is more often than not their families, friends and neighbours who are the first to notice signs of concerns and for this reason it is vital that they have the ability to help the person at risk. For over 8 years IRD Duhallow has facilitated the I ASIST (Applied Suicide Intervention Skills) and Safe Talk workshops in the region in conjunction with the HSE South. Through these workshops participants are enabled to recognise how and when to help a person who is at risk of suicide.



Learners who completed the Applied Suicide Interventions Skills training (I ASIST)



John Lonergan and members of the TO Programme Partners Committee who are accompanied by CEO's and Chairpersons of the 5 Partner LEADER groups attending the launch of the TO Evaluation.

Bereavement and Loss

For many the loss of a loved one can prove too much to cope with on their own. The IRD Duhallow Bereavement and Loss support service reaches out to those having difficulty in coming to terms with such a loss and provides a free and confidential listening service. Trained volunteers ensure that this service is available daily and there is no limit on the amount of sessions a person can receive. For some it may be the loss of a job or something else important in their lives and not specifically a death that they are struggling with and support is also available for them.



Josiah Dempsey receiving his certification of completion of the Towards Occupation Programme from Chairperson of the Equality Working Group, Michael Doyle.



TO participant Christine Campbell, Maura Walsh, IRD Duhallow and Regina Duane, Limerick Education and Training Board presenting guest speaker John Lonergan with a hamper in appreciation for launching the TO Evaluation.

SAOI - Network for Active Retired Groups

Continue to Age with Confidence

The present economic climate poses challenging times for the older members of our community. Faced with constant cuts and reduction of services, including the recent changes to the DART many of our third age live in fear. Older people need a voice, a community and a representation and this they find through their local active retired groups.



Unravelling the Mystery! Sr. Maureen Cahill, Jack Roche and Fr. Sean O'Brien, at 'Glenstal Abbey' as part of Jack's Mystery Tour which was the highlight for many of Bealtaine 2014.

The Saoi Network

Saoi is a network which represents 18 Actively Retired Groups around the Duhallow area. Chaired by IRD Duhallow board member Jack Roche, Saoi aims to develop supports for the Actively Retired Groups by promoting the social and personal development of third age learners, encouraging active citizenship through advocacy and feeding into policy and decision making processes.



SAOI Network Vice Chair Noreen O'Regan, with Joan Cashman, Colour and Image Academy and Louise Bourke, IRD Duhallow at the Colour and Image night.

New Groups

The Saoi Network constantly supports the development of new Actively Retired Groups, this year we worked in close partnership with the Actively Retired Association to develop a new group in Kanturk. With support from IRD Duhallow, a committee was elected and the 'Kanturk ARA' was formed. The group now boasts over 30 members, and meet once a fortnight.



Vice Chair Anne Maria Bourke with Brigid Daly and Sharon Reidy of the Duhallow Choral Society at 'The Evening in the Castle'.

Caring for Communities

Caring for Communities is a philanthropic fund that provides funding towards active citizenship for older people. The Saoi network were successful in getting funding to run 'Preparing for Retirement Workshops' promoting volunteerism and encouraging those who are soon to enter retirement for the changes ahead. With the European and Local Elections in May 2014 the Saoi network in association with the Venetian Partnership ran Active Citizenship workshops to inform voters on the exact functions and responsibilities of our elected representatives, and why it is so important that people exercise their right to vote.

Bealtaine

The third year of Bealtaine saw even more events and activities added to the calendar for the month of May. Bealtaine is a month long festival celebrating actively ageing and this year's theme was 'to catch the heart off guard'. Over 2,500 people attended the 42 events which ranged from angling, to sugan chair making, ballroom dancing to table quizzes, there was something for everyone. For many, the highlight of this year's Bealtaine was Jack's Mystery Tour, which saw 130 people getting the bus to the mystery destination,

which transpired to be a tour of Glenstal Abbey, where our day trippers had the unique experience of a plainchant mass with the monks, and ended up afterwards in Bunratty Castle and folk park.



Members of the SAOI Network officially launching the Bealtaine Programme of events with Jimmy Reidy on C103's Around the Fireside.

3rd Age Life Long Learning

The third age life long learning programme is a LEADER funded initiative which encourages retired people to continue actively learning. Life long learning is a critical part of actively ageing, exploring new ideas and trying new things. It also encourages socialising and particularly in a rural area such as Duhallow, social isolation for older people is a huge problem, and has an impact on the mental ill health of older people. An umbrella fund by the Saoi network provided funding for a wide variety of classes being run by actively retired for older learners including Photography, Crochet, Art, Yoga and Tai Chi.



Anne Maria Bourke presenting the 'Master of Photography' award to Jim McSweeney, with course tutor Justin Black.



Castlemagner Sinsir Club attracted over 100 people to their Dawn Chorus Walk in Lohort Castle.

BenefIT Computer Training

IRD Duhallow partnered with Age Action Ireland to deliver Benefit computer training through 2013 and 2014. In all 174 people were trained in basic and intermediate computers learning the fundamentals of surfing the internet, setting up an email, file management and word processing. Many of our older people have children and grandchildren living abroad, skype classes and tablet training proved very popular amongst these members, so that third age learners can equip themselves with the skills to keep in touch with our Irish emigrants.



Encouraging Actively Ageing. Walkers taking part in the Clara Loop Walk as part of Bealtaine.



Frank O'Sullivan Boherbue was interviewed by TG4 as part of a feature on IRD Duhallow's Bealtaine festival.

Script Writing

Building on from the Memory through Media training programme, the Saoi Network identified a demand to run a 'Script Writing' training programme, which would teach older learners how to construct a script for a documentary. The group produced a film entitled 'Europe and Me' showcasing how Europe has impacted on the lives of people in Duhallow.

Warmer Homes Initiative



Colm Crowley Certificate in Business Studies, Diploma in Rural Development

Colm joined IRD Duhallow in July 2007 as the Warmer Homes Coordinator, experienced in marketing and customer relations, and since registered BER Assessor with the Sustainable Energy Authority. Colm is responsible for 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 2006.

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



Warmer Homes Installers Noel Heffernan and Tade Roche installing soffit vents in a house in Ballydesmond.

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 from the Rural Social Scheme (RSS), Community Employment (CE) Scheme and the Tús 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



Community Services Team Leader Helen O'Sullivan and Cllr Gerard Murphy outside a residence in Murphy's Place that received energy efficiency upgrades through SEAI Better Energy Warmer Homes Area Based Programme in 2013.



service including manual handling, working at heights training, mobile tower scaffold and Safe Pass for all installers.

Tús Participant Tim O'Shea drilling the wall prior to installing cavity wall insulation to a house in Rathmore.

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's/Murphy's Place Newmarket, Woodview Drive Mallow, Drishane View Millstreet and Sliabh Luachra Gneeveguilla, which saw 46 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 property. 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.



Nuala Riordan is a registered Building Energy Rating (BER) Assessor



John Kiely carrying out Cavity Wall insulation.

Under the 2013 Communities programme, IRD Duhallow together with Enprova and EPS successfully applied for funding for a mix of 8 community halls/ schools in Duhallow, and IRD Duhallow's installers carrying out the insulation works.



Susan Randles, Pobal, Padraig deBurca, Regional Team Leader at Pobal, Helen O'Sullivan IRD Duhallow and Colm Crowley IRD Duhallow reviewing the Warmer Homes Scheme CSP Business Plan in July 2013.

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 (BER's) to each house completed under the Warmer Homes Scheme. These BER's 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 this year. This Integrated Management System includes the ISO9001 (Quality), ISO14001 (Environmental) and OHSAS 18001 (Safety).

Kerrigan Sheanon Newman (KSN) is contracted by SEAI to oversee the quality control aspect 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 BEWHS 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.

Rural Transport Programme



Yvonne Brosnan
B.A. Information Systems Management,
Dip. International Business,
Diploma in Education and Training,
Diploma in Rural Development,
Train the Trainer. Cert. E-Commerce,
Cert. Supervisory Management

Since 2003, Yvonne, has successfully overseen the establishment, growth, the efficient planning, implementation and overall day-to-day management of the Duhallow Area Rural Transport Programme. She manages the recruitment, supervision and training of Passenger Assistants and Administration staff, generates reports for the National Transport Authority under both the Rural Transport and Community Services Programme and liaises with community groups and consults on transport needs.

DART Services

Over the past 11 years the service has 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 50,000 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 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 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 after schools service.

In the last year DART has delivered services for many people with mental illness that are partaking in various workshops and training courses 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 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. Our transport services to Cope Foundation in Cork and Mallow allows more training and employment opportunities for the people attending from the Duhallow area.



Charlie Saville with DART Operator Noreen Pike, along with Vincent McDonnell of DART on his way to the after-schools.



Josiah Dempsey and John Fitzgerald availing of the DART service to attend a training course held in James O'Keeffe Training Centre.



Passengers waiting for the DART Bus which travels to Cork every Wednesday.



Newmarket Senior Citizens availing of the DART service for their annual outing in June.

DART Celebration Day

On the 12th of July last year, Duhallow Area Rural Transport (DART) invited all of its passengers and their families together with community representatives to celebrate with them on their 10th Anniversary in the James O'Keeffe Institute Newmarket. The celebration was a huge success; it was strongly supported and very insightful. A DVD was launched on the day which interviewed many of DART's passengers, who spoke on behalf of various communities within the Duhallow region that have benefited enormously from DART. Representatives of the special needs passengers and the elderly strongly emphasised the need for the continuation of this service as it is a lifeline to those who are rurally 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 successes are its 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 subcontracting DART's routes to local hackneys and 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-coordinator, 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 the rurally isolated passengers of Duhallow.

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 RTP Groups from 36 to 18 and with one of these to cover the whole Cork County. Services are to remain the same through 18 Transport Co-ordination Units (TCU's) to be aligned with the Local Authority. In November of last year, IRD Duhallow Ltd. submitted its own application for an expanded area. Having reached agreement with the 5 other providers in the county that we should rationalise from 6 to 3 groups. In February 2014, it was announced that Bantry Rural Transport would now manage the Cork County. However delays in establishing the county wide structure, has meant that contracts are being extended monthly. IRD Duhallow believes that the Rural Transport Programme should stay within its current structure imbedded in Local Development Companies where its relevance and ongoing targeting of those most isolated can continue.

DART Driver Anthony Caughlan collecting Mary Murphy at her home in Rockchapel for the service to Tralee. Success of DART is down to its feasibility to collect people from their homes.



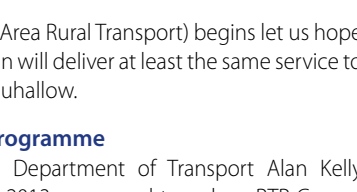
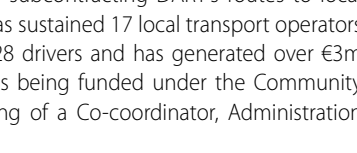
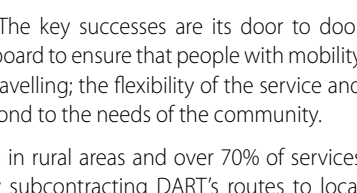
Students of Gneevguilla National School availing of the DART service for Swimming lessons in Killarney.



DART transported a number of Saoi Network Groups on a Mystery Tour during May as part of the Bealtaine Festival.



DART Staff from left to right Noreen Angland, Caroline O'Carroll, Vincent McDonnell, Marie Shire.



Community Employment Scheme



Paddy O'Connor
C.E. Supervisor

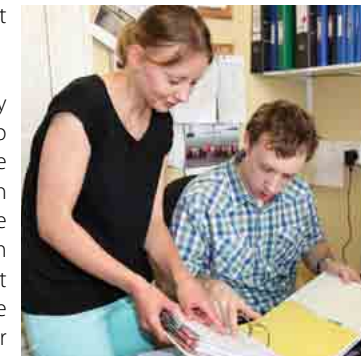
Paddy has been the IRD Duhallow CE Supervisor for over thirteen years and has gained valuable experience in aiding participants to get the most from their CE placement. Paddy has responsibility for supervising the twenty-eight participants as well as liaising with the communities to ensure optimum support for their projects while supporting the ongoing progression of participants. He also has a qualification in Health & Safety.

IRD Duhallow's CE 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 retrain in order to re-enter the workforce. Our current CE scheme participants work across the communities of Dromtariffe, Rathcoole, Boherbue, Ballydaly, Kilcorney, Banteer, Lyre and Newmarket, contributing to the administration, management and maintenance of our busy and vibrant community amenities. Others are being trained in the craft of Furniture refurbishment and the day to day management and operation of the Community Laundry.

We aim to provide the best possible service to communities while ensuring the most valuable work placement experience for participants, which is very important to their progression. The development of community enterprises have been the most significant development in rural Duhallow over the past 10 years, whilst these service are a lifeline to the elderly and the disadvantaged in the community, they provide varied and valuable training and work experience for our CE participants together with those from the



Learning through the workplace is an integral part of the Community Employment Scheme. Patrick Angland is supported in learning accounting and best practice financial management by Kasia Meller, Accounts Officer.



Martin Buicke cuts the grass at Dromtariffe GAA pitch - Maintaining community facilities is a key role played by many CE Participants.



Declan Doody keeps a close eye and record of the hall bookings in Dromtariffe Community Centre.

RSS and Tús teams. Supporting the integration of people who have been absent from the workforce for some time into a team working environment is an important part of their personal development. This strategic approach also allows for both structured learning through defined training but also crosstraining and sharing of skills in an informal manner.

Our Community Employment scheme also provides an optional progressional path for those Tús participants willing to up-skill and with an interest in re-training, thereby improving their potential for further employment.

Participant Development through Training

Training and retraining is a key focus of the IRD Duhallow community employment scheme, striving to identify the needs of local employers in order to focus training in areas where real job opportunities exist locally. This is facilitated through our Job Centre.

The Supervisor encourages all participants to consider specific training tailored to their abilities so that they can up skill and improve their confidence and self-esteem on a personal level and improve their chances of gaining employment.

Over the past year participants took part in Manual Handling, Signing, Lighting and Guarding (CSCS), Bookkeeping, Accounting / Bookkeeping computer software sage, Safe pass, Healthcare support, Finance and Internet, Email, interview skills, CV preparation courses. All of the courses undertaken by participants are certified through FAS, FETAC or City and Guilds.

Participants also got a further opportunity to part take in IRD Duhallow's Pathways to Employment Course, with Paddy which was run in James O'Keeffe.

We have been successful in one participant getting employment this year.

IRD Duhallow have kept the community employment scheme financially stable even though the Department has cut back a lot of the Material and Training budget. We are fortunate to have sub sponsors who are willing to contribute a small donation in order to maintain the schemes viability and ensure adequate insurance cover and proper personal protective equipment for our participants.



Daniel Murphy maintains green areas and ensures community facilities look kempt and tidy.



Jessica Baron is sponsored by the Duhallow Revamp scheme where she gains skills such as furniture upholstery and restoration.



Participant planning and one to one support is paramount to the success of the CE Programme. Anita O'Driscoll meets with her supervisor Paddy O'Connor on a regular basis to monitor her progress and identify further training opportunities.



Michele Doyle works in the Afterschools Programme alongside Ann McMahon.

Rural Social Scheme



RSS Supervisors Billy Dennehy, Sheila O'Keefe and Michael Corcoran.

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 Maura Walsh, 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 proposal, which was multi-faceted in its aspirations also focused on addressing issues which were negatively impacting on the lives of this cohort of farm families including: poor access to basic services, rural isolation and insecurity, disempowerment and exclusion from decision making processes. It was clear from the outset that the RSS was never designed in the context of labour market activation to encourage people back to work but to support, encourage and sustain small farm enterprise activity in rural Ireland.



Bridget Keating working alongside her husband David, feeding calves on their farm. She works with the RSS on the Care and Repair Service making friendly phone calls and checking in on older people in her area.

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 of the RSS which was carried out in 2007 estimated that for every 1 Euro of actual cost to the exchequer, €2.89 of quantifiable benefits are generated. The strong work ethic, skills and local 'tribal' knowledge that exists amongst participants has contributed in a very concrete way to the majority of the community infrastructural and enhancement projects in the region. Furthermore, many RSS participants continue to devote voluntary hours in their own communities in addition to what they are paid for.

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 €7,000 earned by RSS participants, there leaves little doubt that income from farming alone will not be able 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 deems them above 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 people 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 Cornerstone of Agriculture in the EU.

Small farms have 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 that has proven attractive for many participants is the 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 distinguishing feature of RSS delivery in Duhallow is the synergy and complementarity that is achieved between RSS, Tús CE and the suite of other programmes/ services which are delivered. There is a diversity of specific skills present between the different programme supervisors and participants e.g. farming, construction, IT etc. The integrated model of delivery promotes co-operation, cross over and collaboration between all programmes resulting in increased value for money and efficient co-ordination.



Con Guiney working at home on his farm.



Con and Tim Enright are part of the team who maintain the Duhallow Walks and Trails.



DJ Sheehan working on the New Food Innovation Building.



Gerard O'Sullivan cutting grass at the Kilbrin Road, Kanturk.

Rural Social Scheme



Tony Angland operating the track machine as part of the Duhallow Agri Museum Restoration Project.

Small and semi-subsistence farms are generally clustered in isolated rural areas which are often the most fragile and disadvantaged regions home to low income households. The changing structure of rural communities in Duhallow including the migration of key services from the local community e.g. the closure of post offices, banks, the mart, creamery etc. has had a profound effect on the farming community and particularly those farmers who are living alone. The Social Cost Benefit Analysis Report (2007) highlights the important role of the RSS in breaking down the barriers of isolation experienced by many of those living in rural areas. The RSS offers participants improved access to services and increased opportunities to meet and converse with other participants and members of their communities. Many RSS participants have reported that the scheme has acted as a 'gateway' to other locally based services in Duhallow that they had availed of as a result of participation on the scheme e.g. Warmer Homes Scheme, Duhallow Community Food Services, Literacy Support, Community Laundry etc. The RSS has also increased access to information and uptake of entitlements amongst participants and their families alike.

Community Activation

Communities across Duhallow are appreciative of the valuable and visible input the RSS has provided in their towns, villages and countryside. The scheme has provided the crucial difference between vibrant, active and engaged volunteerism and weakened, demoralised community effort. The support of programme participants has enabled local volunteers to focus on community planning, coordination and improved project management. The fruits of this partnership approach can be seen across communities in Duhallow. With the assistance of RSS/Tús Donoughmore village came second in their category in the 2013 National Pride of Place competition.

Protecting our Environment

Under the guidance of the LIFE + team the RSS is proving an integral vehicle in encouraging environmental community action with participants erecting fences (with the permission of farmers), installing silt traps in newly open drains, inserting cattle troughs with solar pumps



Timothy Mahoney works tirelessly to maintain the Glouneen River Loop Walk in Kiskeam.



Integration across employment schemes is a key part of IRD Duhallow's strategy to promote peer learning. Projects such as Life+ provide great examples of RSS, Tús and CE participants working side by side.

to keep cattle out of Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) protected rivers etc. These necessary provisions ensure that there is a reduction in nutrient run-off from land, adequate stabilisation of river banks and reduction of silt entering the rivers. Moreover, to date the RSS has removed 24 kilometres of Himalayan Balsam. This is a non native invasive plant species which is spreading throughout the region. Participation on the scheme has enhanced the adaptation of water management practices as well as creating awareness in rural farming communities about the role of farmers in water policy practices.

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 Claragh, Mt. Hillary, Mullaghareirk 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 Shrone, Rathmore.



Stephen McAuliffe supports his young family through a combination of his farm income and his work on the Rural Social Scheme.



Tús



Tús supervisors Danny McAuliffe, Con O'Sullivan, Sheila Roche, John Daly, Joe Pierce and Don Murphy.

IRD Duhallo's Tús Scheme awarded Employment Initiative of the Year

IRD Duhallo was proud to attend the 2014 Local Authority Members Association Awards in Dublin, where our Tús scheme was named overall winner in the Employment Initiatives Category. Furthermore, our renovation work in the outbuildings at the James O'Keeffe Institute was shortlisted in the Heritage Category. It was an outstanding achievement. The awards were presented by Minister Fergus O'Dowd and the Master of Ceremonies was Miriam O'Callaghan from RTE.



IRD Duhallo Board and Staff being presented with the Employment Initiative of the Year by Miriam O'Callaghan at the LAMA Awards.

Our Tús participants are actively involved in renovating heritage buildings in the region, and the pilot project was to restore the outbuildings of the James O Keeffe Institute, which has designated protected status. The before and after images clearly illustrate the transformation achieved by Tús. This necessitated the learning of many lost traditional construction skills such as lime mixing, stone work, lime plastering, stone cutting, stone masonry and stone re-pointing, all skills that will enhance the employment prospects of Tús participants.



Many Tús participants come from the construction industry and projects such as the Restoration of the Old Smoke House create the opportunity to hone their skills.

Background

The Tús scheme, set up in 2010, is an Activation Initiative providing short-term work opportunities for unemployed people, which will benefit the community, as well as maintain social contact in a work place environment by participants. IRD Duhallo successfully implements this scheme on behalf of the Department of Social Protection in conjunction with the Rural Social Scheme and Community Employment, with the support of LEADER, LCDP and LIFE+ programmes, in order to best serve the community and voluntary organisations in the region and provide the best outcomes for participants.

This strategic joined up thinking ensured that IRD Duhallo 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 Duhallo 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 practicing their trade. The innovative and economical approach taken by IRD ensures that the participants are immersed in a strong progressional and developmental environment, offering opportunities for personal development in an informal learning setting together with the formal training paths and placements IRD Duhallo 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 Illl programme.



Tús fosters a sense of social reward working with community and voluntary groups such as Duhallo Area Rural Transport.

Many of the participants are placed in community facilities. Here John Linehan prepares the hall in Boherbue ahead of a large community event as part of the Day of the Regions.



Tús focuses on keeping participants work ready whilst providing additional supports to assist them back into the workforce or to pursue other training or educational opportunities. All participants who exit the scheme are supported by the IRD Duhallo Job Centre assisting them with CV preparation and interview skills, some participants have continued on to third level education, others have gone on to the CE, to complete FETAC and on the job training, and for those with an entrepreneurial spark there are ongoing opportunities through the LCDP.

Tús



Fiona Quinn is one of the many success stories of the Tús programme, after completing her placement in the DART programme, Fiona went on to full time employment in the office of Andrew Hourigans in Newmarket.

With Challenge Comes Opportunity

The variety of work placements offered reflects the broad nature of services provided by IRD Duhallo who is championing the provision of services to the elderly in a rural context, such as the Warmer Homes, Community Crèches, Furniture Revamp, St. Vincent de Paul, Duhallo Community Food Services, DART (Rural Transport) and Care and Repair these are life lines to thousands of people while also providing meaningful employment and training opportunities for Tús participants.

A new Community Laundry has been developed and Tús participants have been trained to assist in its operation.



Barbara Piotrowska working in the St. Vincent de Paul Shop in Kanturk. Tús supports community enterprise so that essential services such as the St. Vincent de Paul can continue their work.

Over the last 3 years the furniture revamp project has provided training opportunities for Tús participants, who have learnt to restore, upholster and up-cycle furniture.

Up Skilling on Traditional Building Techniques

Glash has seen the withdrawal of services such as the closure of its school, creamery and local shop without which the potential for regular social gatherings are reduced. The community embarked on an ambitious plan to renovate the old school for use by young and old in the area. They were supported to get LEADER funds for most of the work. An opportunity was provided for Tús and RSS participants to get involved in the project under the expert guidance of conservation architect Kevin Blackwood. This has resulted in participants working on this project gaining valuable experience



The restoration of Glash School is one of the largest projects being undertaken by the Tús scheme.

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.



Tús Supervisors Don Murphy and Con O'Sullivan study the plans for the restoration of the Agri Museum.

The Craft of Stonemasonry

Tús and RSS participants 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 older 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.



Participants Mark Deane, Augustine Lane and Kevin O'Dea proud of their handy-work marking the historical site of Mahon's Rock.

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 enables the ongoing development of social capital, whereby community volunteers 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

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 having worked 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 Failte 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 25,000 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 EHO 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 SAOI 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.



Joe Pierce and Billy Dennehy study the plans for the new DCFS Bakery, which is currently under construction.

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 provided 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 underscore the need for the service. Healthy eating is essential for everyone - but ensuring that there is always a nutritious, satisfying meal to be had at home can be quite a challenge for some people. DCFS provides a home meal delivery service to anyone in Duhallow who finds themselves 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.



DCFS meals service is more than just delivery of food, for many it's meeting a friendly face on a daily basis. Jerry Weathers receives his dinner from Paul O'Connor.

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 form 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 communions, 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 CSP, RSS and Tús. The centre provides the opportunity for the long term unemployed to access employment locally.



The DCFS stand at the National Ploughing championships was a hive of activity over the three days with a number of well known faces stopping by. Here DCFS manager Orlaith Tomkins greets Fine Gael MEP Sean Kelly.



Sean O'Connell loads one of the DCFS vans with freshly prepared hot dinners. These vans travel all over the byroads of Duhallow to ensure that older people can have a nutritious meal daily.



The meals service is subsidised through private catering and supply of homemade bakery products to local retail outlets. Rose Drew and Eileen Roche carry out finishing touches on some delicacies for a private event.

DCFS administration team Eilish Breen and Olive Casey, making sure the accounts and books are all in order.

Community Groups in Duhallow

South Eastern Duhallow Communities

Aubane
Banteer
Bweeng
Derrinagree
Donoughmore & Stuake
Firmount
Kilcorney
Laharn
Lyre
Millstreet
Nadd
New Tipperary
Rathcoole

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 Perdissatt
Clodagh McSweeney & Paudie O'Shea
Mamie O'Shea & Tony Horgan
Eamonn Hurley & Liz Burns

Western Duhallow Communities

Ballinahulla
Ballydaly
Ballydesmond
Boherbue
Cullen
Foilogohig
Glash
Gneeveguilla
Kiskeam
Knockaclarig
Knocknaboul
Knocknagree
Meelin
Rathmore
Rockchapel
Shrone
Taur
Toureencahill

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 & Batt 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
Batt O'Callaghan & Jeremiah Murphy
Bertie O'Leary & Lil Fleming

North Eastern Duhallow Communities

Castlemagner
Cecilstown
Dromtariffe
Freemount
Kanturk
Kilbrin
Lismire
Newmarket
Tullylease

IRD Duhallow Representatives

James Twohig & Andy Bourke
Mary Cooney & William Morrissey
Donie Forde & Deirdre Forde
Caroline O'Carroll & Mike O'Regan
John Fuller & Tommy Mullane
Patrick Drumm & Jennifer Casey
Colman Jones & Sheila Kearney
Eilish Hourigan & Ollie Dugdale
Angela Hannigan & Mary O'Connell

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Duhallow

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