

# I.R.Ó. Duhallow

## DUHALLOW WOMEN'S FORUM



# Journey

## THROUGH TIME

*"Duhallow Women's Forum aims to identify, acknowledge and celebrate the role of Women in Duhallow. We are committed to enhancing the capacity of locally based community groups to promote female participation and address issues that affect rural Women by coming together to "share information, ideas and undertake joint projects"*

PAST : PRESENT : FUTURE

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## INTRODUCTION

The Duhallow Women's Forum was established in 1997 and is a network of sixteen women's groups in the Duhallow Region, who have come together "to share information, exchange ideas and undertake joint projects". The Forum is committed to enhancing honest non-tokenistic representation of women in Duhallow.

IRD Duhallow has always demonstrated a strong commitment to combating disadvantage and social exclusion. The Duhallow Women's Forum brings together existing organisations like the ICA with newer groups like Parent and Toddler Groups, Childcare Groups, Carer's Association, Focal Farmer Representative etc.

The Forum is open to all interest groups to participate. As a representative the role of the individual is to channel information from their group and

community to the Forum and from the Forum back to the representative's group and community. It is very much a two way process.



**Members of the forum in its early stages of development**

From left to right: Jeanette O' Connell, Catherine O'Sullivan (Staff Resource – IRD Duhallow), Mary Kelly, Margaret Murphy (Chairperson of the forum), Judy O'Leary, Liz O'Sullivan, Teresa Kelleher, Ann Bourke, Eleanor Burke.

The forum's first decade has seen it develop from strength to strength much of which has been recorded in this publication for posterity

## DEVELOPMENT OF FORUM

The Duhallow Women's Forum with the support of the Board of IRD Duhallow was formally established in 1997 in response to identified needs of women. At that time there was a concern that women remained hidden and disempowered within rural areas. This was due to various interacting factors including inadequate childcare facilities, shortage of public or private transport services, few training opportunities, isolation within the home and absence of adequate support facilities.

Responding to these needs the forum aims to provide support to women's groups through an opportunity to network and share information, ideas and experiences.

This Women's Forum is one of a number of initiatives under IRD Duhallow's Local Development Social Inclusion Programme, aimed at enhancing the participation of women in community development and local decision making.

The forum comprises of one or two representatives from affiliated groups who meet monthly to plan events and agree strategies. These forum meetings may precede a public meeting on specific issues and where appropriate with an outside guest speaker. In addition the forum has enabled women to participate

in local decision making structures including the Board of IRD Duhallow and a number of key working groups. Also the Women's Forum is affiliated to the National Women's Council of Ireland thus allowing it to play a significant role in local and national policy and decision making.



Launch of the Duhallow Women's Forum

## WHAT THE FORUM SIGNIFIES TO DUHALLOW WOMEN

- Meeting other women's groups from Duhallow which allows the sharing of information and ideas.
- The forum has succeeded in building the confidence levels of women in the region, through encouraging their participation in a wide range of training courses.
- Realisation that some issues/problems were held in common with urban groups.
- IRD Duhallow is able to facilitate public speakers in addition to helping source suitable venues *"I came to the Forum in June 2002. I must say it has really been worthwhile. I can see first-hand how the Forum gets things done. The Forum meets every month and so we gather in to say our piece – everyone has a voice – the goal of course is to bring about change where necessary."*
- Public meetings facilitated the exchange of information creating the chance for networking to occur *"We have hosted nights where we have had more people than seats."*
- Women's' issues have been extensively highlighted, both in the local media and at other community events. *"I find that because the women's forum is a member of the National Women's Council of Ireland it allows an input into its policy and therefore prevents issues of relevance to rural areas from being forgotten"*
- Over the last ten years the forum has organised various training courses for local people to partake in.
- Women's groups on the ground can feel less isolated through the opportunity for greater collaboration and networking.



## DEVELOPMENT OF A CALENDAR HONOURING WOMEN OF “MNÁ DHUTHALLA”

IRD Duhallow's LEADER + Strategic Plan 2000-2006 and Local Development Social Inclusion Programme 2000-2006 established a strategic framework of objectives to be met over the course of seven years.

Supported in the LEADER + Strategic Plan is the theme “Making the best use of Natural & Cultural Resources”. One of the programmes within this initiative has been Human Resource Development. It has consistently been recognised that Duhallow's most significant resource is its people (human resources). The people of Duhallow have preserved traditional and uniquely regional styles of artistic expression in music, song, poetry and dance. People are at the centre of preserving, fostering and further developing the culture of Duhallow and local social networks.

Building on this framework the Local Development Social Inclusion Programme focuses on preparing and supporting the most disadvantaged in the community e.g. disadvantaged women to participate in community and enterprise development projects. This is achieved through animation and capacity building, researching community needs, facilitation of networking etc.

The Duhallow Women's forum therefore designed a method to reach both the objective designed under the LEADER + Strategic plan as well as the Local Development Social Inclusion Programme. This innovative project is known as the Mná Dhuthalla Calendar.

### MNÁ DHUTHALLA—

The initial aim of this project was to try and capture the strong sense of local identity that characterises Duhallow and to project this image positively both within and outside of the region. Through LEADER supported animation and capacity building actions, this project has created new social networks for women in the area and enabled the forum to become very much involved in a project that was their own.

## THE CALENDAR

### Mná Dhuthalla—

The forum believes that awareness raising and advocacy is central to the development and continuation of the forums success. Therefore a number of meetings were held to try and look at and approach ways of engaging greater participation of women. **These ideas have led to the core project; the publication of a calendar for 2004, with each month celebrating the life of a notable Duhallow woman.**

Once it was decided to undertake this initiative, The Duhallow Women's Forum then commenced a journey of researching and publishing a calendar to mark the lives and achievements of twelve notable Duhallow women. Their purpose was to create a better understanding and awareness of these women's lives and their work while also boosting the profile of Duhallow women in general.

In nominating women to put forward for selection, extensive advertising was undertaken through the IRD Duhallow Community Newsletter, adverts on local radio and newspapers and all local women's groups. There was a trawl through the many women's names from all ages and spheres of life that were put forward from every parish and women's group in Duhallow.

The most difficult job was in choosing the twelve—at that we managed to squeeze in thirteen as two were sisters in life and religion.

The twelve selected depict every possible role model a woman could wish to emulate from goddess to hopeless romantic and from care givers to social leaders. The objective of the project was to recognise and highlight the magnificent contribution women have made to Duhallow but in most cases still remain unsung heroes with just one notable exception—Nora Herlihy, none of the others had a park or street called after them or a plaque or monument erected to them.

The Duhallow Women's Forum mission is therefore to rectify this situation.

## THE CALENDAR CONTINUED

In order to enhance local ownership, members of the working group apportioned the tasks among themselves, including research, compiling bibliographies, design, financial planning, fundraising and promotion. LEADER + supported this process through the supports of a Community Development Officer, and by providing funding to cover part of the printing costs. The Local Development Social Inclusion Programme enabled its realisation also through the resource of meetings, training promotions and publications to engage disadvantaged groups.

### OBJECTIVES:

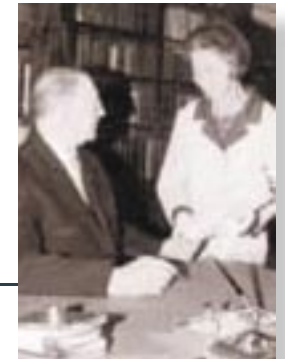
- Highlight twelve distinguished women from Duhallow
- Build on the success of other projects to date through engaging greater numbers of women in the development process while also creating awareness of what the Duhallow Women's Forum undertakes
- Celebrate and promote a positive image of women and the rural territory.
- Promote social inclusion and encourage female participation in local, community and their own personal development.
- Increase participation of women's groups on the forum

## NOTABLE WOMEN OF THE MNÁ DHUTHALLA CALENDAR



**Alice Taylor**

– Women's Contribution To Literature



**Nora Herlihy**

– Women's Contribution To Social Finance



**Sarah Curran**

– Romantic Woman

NOTABLE WOMEN OF THE  
MNÁ DHUTHALLA CALENDAR

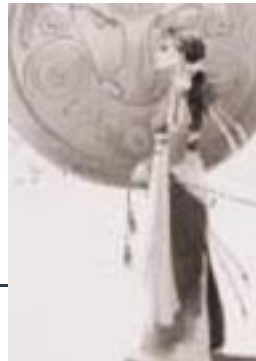


**Hanna Sheehy Skeffington**  
– Women And The Right To Vote



NOTABLE WOMEN OF THE  
MNÁ DHUTHALLA CALENDAR

**St Laitiaran**  
– Women the Saint



**Danu**  
– Woman the Goddess



**Lisa Aherne**  
– Women And Music And Song



**Nora Herlihy**  
(Nee O'Leary) – Survivor Of The HMS Titanic



**Edel Quinn**  
– Women In Missionary Work

## NOTABLE WOMEN OF THE MNÁ DHUTHALLA CALENDAR



**Nora Burton**

– The Irish Country Women's Association

**Julia Clifford**

– Women And The Music Of Sliabh Luachra



**Sr Consilio  
and Sr Agnes Fitzgerald**

– Women And SocialChange

## IMPACT OF THE CALENDAR TO DATE

This innovative project has captured the strong sense of local identity that characterises Duhallow, and its initial aim of projecting a positive image both within and outside of the region has indeed been achieved. Huge support from the Duhallow region, as well as regionally and nationally has been attained with sales in New Zealand, USA, Canada, Australia, South Africa, England and Scotland.

Through LEADER-supported animation and capacity building actions, this project has created new social networks for the Women's Forum and has enabled a group of female initiators to become successful project promoters and contribute to a collective learning process.

Each year one of these women's lives has inspired a conference or event marking the lives and achievements of notable Duhallow women. The Duhallow Women's Forum has received huge enthusiasm from all over Duhallow, and attendances at open information meetings have been boosted.

We would envisage that this project will continue to bring greater awareness of these women and their work, and boost the profile of Duhallow rural women in general.

One of our first women honoured to date was that of Hannah Sheehy-Skeffington.



## IMPACT OF THE CALENDAR TO DATE

**Hanna Sheehy Skeffington:** Hannah Sheehy-Skeffington was born in Kanturk in 1877 and will be best remembered as the founder of the suffragette movement in Ireland. In 1908 Hanna and Francis (her husband), with their friends Gretta and James Cousins, founded the militant Irish Women's Franchise League to fight for women's right to vote and for women's citizenship to be included in the Home Rule Bill.

In order to mark Hannah Sheehy-Skeffington's contribution to Irish life and society, the Duhallow Women's Forum constructed a sculptor of her. This consisted of a life size figure of her in bronze along with a vote box. This sculptor was erected in the old Town Park, Kanturk.

Also a conference on "Women in Politics and Decision-Making" - Open Lecture on Hanna Sheehy—Skeffington was held to honour Hanna considering her special relevance as an Irish feminist and active suffrage campaigner.



*From left to right: Maura Walsh Manager of IRD Duhallow, Micheline Sheehy - Skeffington (grand-daughter of Hanna Sheehy - Skeffington), Jeanette O'Connell vice chairperson of the forum, Jack Roche former chairperson of IRD Duhallow and Hannah's great grand-daughter.*

## IMPACT OF THE CALENDAR TO DATE

**Sarah Curran:** Sarah Curran is one of the great romantic figures of Irish history as a result of Moore's song "She is far from the land".

Sarah was born in Newmarket in 1782 and we honoured Sarah through the erection of life size sculpture situated in Newmarket. Sarah is buried with her grandmother's people, the Philpotts, in the Church of Ireland graveyard in Newmarket.



**Edel Quinn:** Edel Quinn was born in Castlemagner in the Duhallow region of Co. Cork on the 14th of September 1907. At the age of twenty she joined the Legion of Mary in Dublin and gave herself entirely to the Legion apostolate. In 1936 she was appointed Legion of Mary envoy to establish the organisation in East and Central Africa. Working alone and battling against great obstacles she established the legion on an enduring basis even as far as Mauritius in the Indian Ocean. At present Edel Quinn's status is venerable and the Legion of Mary encourages all prayers to be offered for the intercession. The Duhallow Women's forum is currently in the process of erecting a monument to honour Edel Quinn.



## IMPACT OF THE CALENDAR TO DATE

**Sister Consilio & Sister Agnes Fitzgerald:** Both Sister Consilio and Sister Agnes were born and grew up on a farm in Clough, Rockchapel. They have dedicated their lives to helping people overcome addiction problems and in doing so have influenced the lives of thousands of addicts and their families.

The women's forum held a conference "Substance Abuse in the Community" in 'Bruach na Carriage' Rockchapel.

The aim of this conference was to explore the issue of substance abuse, the factors contributing to addiction, and to learn about the most effective approaches to prevention and intervention.

*The key note speakers included:*

- **Sister Consilio**, Cuan Mhuire, Athy Co.Kildare who became aware of the plight of many whom suffered from addiction to alcohol.
- **Sister Agnes**, Cuan Mhuire Centre in Bruree, Co.Limerick who is qualified as an Addiction Counsellor who responds also to this great need.

Sister Agnes Fitzgerald speaking on the issue of substance abuse



## IMPACT OF THE CALENDAR TO DATE

**Danu:** Danu, sometimes referred to as Anu, is the ancient Celtic goddess of fertility, prosperity and comfort. Danu's primary associations are with the processes of the agricultural cycle, as throughout Europe Britain and Ireland, in particular Munster; she was highly revered by pre-Christian agricultural communities as the guardian of cattle and health. Few stories about Danu have survived, and yet the reverence in which she was held still remains. Danu is being honoured by the Forum through the dedication of a sculpture and a conference. The monument is being raised in Rathmore near the Paps Mountain or also known as The Paps of Danu.



Depiction of the Goddess Danu

Through a conference entitled "A Spirit of Belonging" efforts are being made to honour and learn more about spirituality and its connections with women and folklore. A celebration and a learning of her heritage will be undertaken.

## IMPACT OF THE CALENDAR TO DATE

**Alice Taylor:** Alice Taylor was born on 28 February 1938 on a farm in Lisdangan, Newmarket into a family of seven. She went to school across the fields to Dromanarigle, which later became the subject of her best selling book of childhood memories *"To School Through The Fields"*. Alice has appeared on radio programmes such as *Woman's Hour*, *Midweek* and the *Gloria Huniford Show*, and she has been the subject of major profiles in the *Irish Times*, *Observer* and the *Mail on Sunday*. In 1997 her first novel, the *Woman of the House*, was published by Mount Eagle and was an immediate bestseller in Ireland. Her book *"The Parish"* will be published in 2008.

Alice Taylor was honoured at the launch of the calendar titled "Duhallow Women in Focus" of which she gave a short presentation on her achievements and work to date. Also in her honour the Women's Forum organised Creative Writing Workshops for beginners and advanced writers. These workshops provided people with an insight into the art of creative writing. They also were taught how to structure their letter writing, story telling and much more.

At present the Forum is undertaking the development of a monument honoring Alice Taylor which will be erected in Newmarket.

## LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

The Women's Forum was established to help groups and individuals within Duhallow to form valuable links with each other. The aim is to try and reach all the women in Duhallow. It will be required to continue the Forum's awareness raising campaign that it is a forum for the people of Duhallow and the more representation that we have from the local women of Duhallow the greater voice the Forum can develop.

The long term goal as the Forum continues is to help the communities engage in the networking process and in the future to empower localities to reach their own decisions and achieve the targets set out.

It is envisaged that we will continue to honour the women who inspired the Mná Dhuthalla Calendar.

We will focus the next number of years to honour:

**Nora Herlihy** – Women's Contribution To Social Finance

**Lisa Aherne** – Women And Music And Song

**Nora Burton** – The Irish Country Women's Association

**Julia Clifford** – Women And The Music Of Sliabh Luachra

**Nora Herlihy** (Nee O'Leary) – Survivor Of The HMS Titanic

## LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

It is predicted that in the future the members of the Forum will continue to become more actively involved in the planning, organising and sharing of responsibility. It will be required to continue the process of lobbying local issues of relevance to the Forum for example to continue lobbying for the non-closure of local post offices in the area of Duhallow, the under-representation of women in politics (only 15% of elected councillors are women), trafficking of human beings, the roll out of breast care units in all counties in Ireland, zero tolerance of violence against women etc.

Vision from a member of our Forum: *During Mary Robison's Presidential Campaign she constantly referred to the Mná na hEireann of which the Duhallow Women's forum is very much a part of i.e. Mná na Dhuthalla, Ms. Robison became a beacon of light to people who live in a world of darkness, in Third World countries she highlighted in no uncertain terms the appalling injustices against humanity.. She became a voice for people who had a desperate need to be heard. That is what I would like to see the Duhallow Women's Forum doing – to continue to be a voice for the people of Duhallow, particularly its women.*

Judy O' Leary is a firm believer of the importance of networking as a means of empowerment for women. Judy has been on the forum since its inception and her input and enthusiasm towards this forum is without doubt one of the leading reasons of why the forum is so successful to date. She and the entire member's contribution will be needed now more than ever for the forum to continue its vision for the future.

## PERSONAL EXPERIENCES FROM MEMBERS OF THE FORUM

*The launch of the forum in Sept 1997 was a marvellous event in the Training Centre in Boherbue. Dr. Pat O' Hara was our guest speaker and the forum elected its first official chairperson Ms Margaret Murphy from Boherbue, we were full of enthusiasm, looking forward to a bright future.....Praise and thanks has to go to Maura Walsh and Brendan O' Keeffe of IRD Duhallow for their support especially in the early days of the forum formation"*

**Judy O'Leary**, member of the forum for 10 years and is its current chairperson.

*"I would have to say that the event that stood out for me was the launching of the Calendar which honoured some Duhallow women, past and present. That evening the speakers were Alice Taylor, Sr. Consilio Fitzgerald, Sr. Agnes Fitzgerald and Lisa Aherne, all four were in the Calendar. The two sisters, Agnes and Consilio, as well as being sisters in religion they are sisters of the same family. These two ladies have contributed so much to Irish Society – they have brought recovery to so many addicts.....The other two ladies, Alice Taylor and Lisa Aherne have brought much joy to so many people – Alice through her writing and Lisa through her singing – they made a lot of us who were privileged to be there that evening very proud to be Duhallow Women.*

**Maura Cronin**, member of the forum for the last seven years.

*"I joined the forum about five years ago at the request of Rathmore Community Childcare. I feel that the development of Childcare facilities in Duhallow is essential in order to enhance the quality of life for people in the area. Through the years the Forum has brought speakers and organised seminars and workshops to highlight all aspects of childcare. It has been a great help to local childcare providers in helping them to secure funding for purposely built childcare centres".*

**Kathleen O' Mahony** with the forum five years



## PERSONAL EXPERIENCES FROM MEMBERS OF THE FORUM

*“My first knowledge of the Duhallow Women’s Forum was at the unveiling of the Hanna Sheehy Skeffington Memorial on a wet day in the town park of Kanturk. Afterwards over a cup of tea in the Duhallow Farmers Market, as I listened with fascination to Hanna’s granddaughter extolling this great woman, born in Victorian times, yet became such an active feminist—I vowed to find out more about the Duhallow Women’s Forum.*

**Mary Crowley** with the forum nine months

*“My first experience was when I attended a six week course on self assertiveness which changed my whole outlook on life. Like the song goes! “I picked myself up, dust myself off, and start all over again!”*

**Kay Linehan**, with the forum four years

*“Through the women’s forum, I and my friends and neighbours have been able to attend talks on topics such as road safety, women’s pensions, multiple sclerosis to mention but a few. We have also been able to listen to inspiring talks by Patricia Messenger and John Lonergan among many others”.*

**Mary Leahy**, with the forum four years.

*“I raised the issue in a women’s forum meeting regarding the difficulties that parents are experiencing when it comes to receiving help for their children who require Speech and Language Therapy. The Women’s Forum then organised a meeting which was largely attended. I am proud to be a member of the Women’s forum and hope that they have many years of success in the future”*

**Martha Courtney** with the forum for the last three years.

A personal highlight for me is the sharing of information and the personal contribution that women bring from their respective bodies/guilds. Everyone has an opinion which is valued and if there is an issue raised then this is looked at constructively and without bias.

**Jeanette O’ Connell**, with the forum for seven years.

## TO CONCLUDE

The Women’s forum has been a very significant development for women living in the Duhallow region. It is important to note that even though the forum is in existence for what is now ten years its development is an ongoing process. The contribution to date from forum members and in particular, staff resources from IRD Duhallow has seen the forum develop in a way that was unimagined in the beginning. The number of events, training courses, information seminars, conferences, lobbying is a true measure of the hard work and dedication that has resulted from the formation of the Duhallow Women’s Forum.



A number of the current members of the Duhallow Women’s Forum; from left to right: Jeanette O’Connell (Vice-Chairperson), Noreen Murphy, Maura Cronin, Kathleen O’Mahony, Kay Linehan, Mary Crowley, Martha Courtney, Phyllis O’Connor, Mary Leahy and Judy O’Leary (Chairperson)

## A JOURNEY THROUGH THE YEARS

YEAR	EVENT
<b>1997</b>	Launch of the Duhallow Women's Forum – Dr. Pat O'Hara spoke about women in local Development



Left:  
Margaret Murphy  
the first women's representative from the Duhallow Women's Forum to the Local Development Board of IRD Duhallow

<b>1998</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Women's Health with Bridgid Daly</li> <li>• Healthy Eating with Dara Morgan of the National Dairy Council</li> </ul>
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## A JOURNEY THROUGH THE YEARS

### 1999

- Seminar on Parenting with Dr. Bruno Mulcahy
- Development Education and Women in Agriculture, with Ethyl Crowley and Liz Hayes
- Women and Local Democracy with Joan McGinley
- Craft Fair – A Women's Heart with Noirin Ni Riain
- A.G.M. with Garden Demonstration
- Food Production and Consumption; Options for Duhallow with Darina Allen



Picture from left to right: Mossie Archdeacon, Tim Lucey (Chairperson of IRD Duhallow), Brendan O'Keefe (Community Development Team Leader), Eleanor Bourke (Chairperson of the Forum), Darina Allen of Ballymaloe Cookery School and Judy O'Leary (Forum Representative).

### 2000

- Using Herbs – Talk and Demonstration Rosary Kingston
- Parenting and Self Esteem Development – Seminar with Tony Humphreys
- Tackling Substance Abuse and Addictions – Talks in Cullen and Newmarket
- Training Course on the uses of Herbs

## A JOURNEY THROUGH THE YEARS

### 2001

- Training Course in the uses of Herbs
- Info Evening on Domestic Violence and Submission to Southern Health Board for a support service
- NCVA Level 11 training in childcare
- Agreement the Forum would seek Board Representation

### 2002

- Affiliation to the National Women's Council of Ireland where we now have a say in National Policy
- Targeting the Elderly and the conversion to the Euro
- Advanced Herbs Training Course
- Information Evening on Rights and Entitlements – guest speakers included Mary Lyne from the Cork Branch of Comhairle and Donie O' Mahony of MABS
- A.G.M. - Interior Design Speaker which lead to an Interior Design Training Course
- International Women's Day – Information evening on Stress Management, speakers Julianna Murphy & Anne O' Donnell from Coisceim Natural Therapy Centre.



A great attendance gathered for the 2002 International Women's Day Information evening on Stress Management

## A JOURNEY THROUGH THE YEARS

### 2003

- Official Launch of Mná Dhuthalla Calendar through an information evening "Duhallow Women in Focus"
- Conference on "Why Women are excluded from Decision Making" – Open Lecture on Hanna Sheehy – Skeffington (Irish Feminist and Suffrage Campaigner)



From left to right:  
Judy O'Leary member of the Duhallow Women's Forum,  
Joanna McMinn, National Women's Council of Ireland,  
Maura Walsh, Manager IRD Duhallow,  
Veronica Canning of Canning and Associates Dublin and Micheline Sheehy – Skeffington (grand-daughter of Hanna Sheehy – Skeffington)

- Information evening entitled "Parents and Young People Feeling Good" with Dr. Tony Humphries (Consultant Clinical Psychologist).
- Self/Personal Development Course with tutor Ms. Frances Lombard of Personal Development Training and Consultancy Services in Mallow
- A.G.M. Marie Melia from Killorglin a chief fire officer was a guest speaker for the information evening entitled "Burning Ambition & Breaking Boundaries"



## A JOURNEY THROUGH THE YEARS

### 2004

- Information Evening with the Governor of Mount Joy Prison Mr. John Loughey on "Making Community Work"
- Information Evening focusing on "Healthy Eating and Environmental Awareness" with a tutor from the organic college in Drumcollogher.
- A.G.M. "Breast Cancer Awareness" with a representative from the Irish Cancer Society
- Conference – "Substance Abuse in the Community" with Dr. Timothy Jackson of the Southern Health Board, Sister's Consilo Fitzgerald ( Established the first Cuan Mhuire Centre, Athy Co. Kildare and has subsequently established other centres in Limerick, Down, Galway, Dublin and Cork) with the aim of helping those who suffer from addiction to alcohol and Agnes Fitzgerald a qualified addiction counsellor (Sister Agnes runs the Cuan Mhuire Centre in Bruree, Co. Limerick), Eileen Haran Health Promotion Officer with the Southern Health Board, Willie Collins Interim Co-ordinator with the Southern Regional Drugs Tasks Force.

## A JOURNEY THROUGH THE YEARS

### 2005

- Conference – "Women in the Workplace and Entrepreneurship: Opportunities in Duhallow". Speakers included: Teresa Murphy – NWCI, Patricia Kennedy – University College Dublin, Nicola McMahon – Local Entrepreneur, Giana Ferguson – Gubbeen Cheese, Deirdre Fox – Comhar LEADER na hEireann.
- Information Evening entitled: "Multiple Sclerosis" with Dr. John Bourke and Maura Murphy of MS Ireland as a guest speaker.
- Conference – "Is rurality a factor in determining Women's health?" speakers included Dr. Joanna McMinn of the NWCI, Ms Geraldine Luddy – The Women's Health Council Dublin, Ms. Liz Sullivan – Combat Poverty Agency, Ms Julie Healy – AWARE.
- A.G.M. – Information evening "Role of Women in Community Development" with Sr. Maureen Lally from South West Mayo LEADER.
- IRD Duhallow and the Duhallow Women's Forum officially unveiled Hanna Sheehy-Skeffington Monument in Kanturk Town Park
- Unveiling of Sarah Curran's monument

## A JOURNEY THROUGH THE YEARS

### 2006

- Health Information Evening on "Depression, Speech and Language Therapy" with Dr. Mary Leader and Bec Fahy of AWARE
- Creative Writing Workshops with Vincent McDonnell, Author
- Road Safety Information Evening with Martin Heffernan of the National Safety Council, Marie Cronin of Headways and representative from An Gardai Siochana.
- "Childcare in Duhallow" seminar with representatives from both Cork & Kerry County Childcare Committees along with Liz O'Connor from Pobal who works on the National Childcare Investment Programme 2006-2010.
- Submission to the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform for funding under the Equality for Women Measure. The forum was successful in its application.
- A.G.M. – "Role of Women in the Media and the challenges that exist" with Patricia Messenger of 103fm.



From left to right:  
Helen O'Sullivan (Community Development Officer), Judy O'Leary member of the Duhallow Women's Forum, Patricia Messenger guest speaker from 103fm, Caroline Fleming Chairperson of the forum and Jeanette O'Connell Vice-Chairperson of the Duhallow Women's Forum.

## A JOURNEY THROUGH THE YEARS

### 2007

- Commencement of Equality for Women Programme, the facilitation of four training courses aimed at increasing women's participation in the workforce, further training or education.



Members of Deciding Your Future Training Course receiving Certification

- Facilitation of two Creative Writing Workshops – one workshop for beginners and one for advanced participants with Vincent McDonnell, Author
- Lobbying for the non-closure of rural post offices in the area of Duhallow



- "Women & Pensions – Rights and Entitlements" Information Evening

From left to right:  
Colette Vaughan, Newmarket Social Welfare Office, Mr. Sean Casey Pensions Manager with AIB, Jeanette O'Connell Vice Chairperson of the forum and Tony Butler Financial Planning Consultant

I.R.D. Duhallow Ltd

CONTACT DETAILS FOR  
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*Funded under the Local Development Social Inclusion Programme*

