

IRD Duhallow

Progress Report



Duhallow

THE SPIRIT OF RURAL IRELAND

2011 - 2012

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 1915), Millstreet (Pop 1401), Newmarket (Pop 949) and Rathmore (Pop 611) and 36 villages.



IRD Duhallow

James O'Keeffe Institute,
Newmarket, Co. Cork, Ireland.
Tel: 00-353-29-60633
Fax: 00-353-29-60694
Email: duhallow@eircom.net
Web Site: irdduhallow.com



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Minister Pat Rabbitte receives the company's Annual Report from Michael Twohig, Chairman and Maura Walsh CEO IRD Duhallow.

Chairman's Address

This year, I complete my three year term, as Chairman of IRD Duhallow. It would be remiss of me not to look at that period as a whole, as well as focusing on the past year's activities in this report. I was elected Chair at a time of much upheaval in Local Action Groups like ours around the country, as the cohesion process came to a close and the Department was enforcing its new governance rules with fervour. Indeed, such was their zeal that my predecessor was not even allowed the dignity of chairing the AGM and penning his out-going chairman's report, having already exceeded the new maximum term of service on the Board, as a result I was elected Chair, two months ahead of the usual timeframe and as such jumped in at the deep end. The LEADER programme had just started, albeit a full two years behind schedule, our Board armed with its Strategic Plan with objectives, goals and targets clearly defined, was chomping at the bit to bring our commitments across all the measures up to an acceptable level by mid term.

I led our strategic planning two day think-in with both Board and Evaluation Committee members present, where we decided that the way forward was to fully understand and implement the governance code introduced and to plough on with our strategies despite the ever increasing bureaucracy of the "control regime" coming top-down on a bottom up rural development LEADER programme. The Manager and staff were tasked with absorbing as much of the bureaucracy as possible so that the bottom-up could continue to flourish and I must congratulate everyone concerned for a job well done in that regard.

IRD Duhallow is in the top three groups in the country with regard to funding commitments to projects and our enterprise projects are delivering on jobs despite the adverse depressed economic climate. Companies which we have nurtured and supported are now employing up to three times the numbers they envisaged at application stage.

The second Board think-in which I led had the Chairs of our working groups present along with the Board. Its focus was on delivering relevant services to our communities and prioritising actions and target groups for our Local Community Development strategic plan, which replaced the social inclusion programme nationally. This programme has sustained cuts to its funding as the debt crisis deepens but it still delivers the most essential services to those on the financial and social margins. The unemployed, underemployed on low incomes, young people, those with depression and mental ill health, those at risk from suicide, early school leavers and the elderly and young people as well as disadvantaged rural women.

Our annual plans were submitted at the beginning of the year and the County Development Board had a major role this year in approving plans. Along with our CEO and Senior Team Leader I attended a briefing by Pobal on our document, in addition Pobal attended a Board meeting and delivered a similar briefing to the Board. The demands on our services locally have increased exponentially in recent years. You will see in this Progress Report where the numbers seeking assistance with CV preparation and interview skills has risen again this year as has the number of people seeking places on all our training programmes and despite reducing resources we continue to meet higher targets through increased community involvement and staff commitment. Initiatives like the LEADER funded Grow it Yourself Programme is delivering a much needed skill set to families in order to reduce their food bills. This is the kind of integrated programme delivery which has set groups like IRD Duhallow apart and which has been highlighted as by the European Commission in its Community Led Local Development



model being put forward for the 2014-2020 funding period. I am confident that our government departments like the European Commission will embrace this concept fully and will give the bottom up groups the opportunity to achieve something great in the coming years.

IRD Duhallow from the very beginning adopted such a model, whereby the needs of the Duhallow people are met and the regions assets developed through implementing a series of programmes which compliment and cross support each other to provide results far beyond what might be achieved if programmes were delivered separately. One such programme, which is close to my own heart, is the European Life+ programme. IRD Duhallow is the first Local Action Group to deliver such a programme in

Ireland. Our focus is on the upper Blackwater special area of conservation with proposed strategies to address and alleviate the stresses which have combined to cause deterioration of the habitat of the Fresh Water Pearl Mussel, Salmon, Otter and Kingfisher. We have brought the resources of the Rural Social Scheme to bear on the project in eradicating an invasive species, Himalayan Balsam from over 18 kilometres of river bank and replacing it with native species. Measures including native Willow planting to slow bank erosion are also being carried out while we wade through the deep waters (quagmire) of multiple licensing from the appropriate authority in order to complete our works.

Alongside these works, this exciting project is also bringing IRD Duhallow and our partners Inland Fisheries Ireland into the classrooms to enhance the environmental learning of our young people in whose hands the future of these endangered species rests. I must say I am delighted with the positive response of teachers, parents and pupils to the project. The Life+ project complements our LEADER Environment Strategy and provides suitable outdoor work placements for Rural Social Scheme participants.

During the past year I was delighted to welcome some illustrious visitors to IRD Duhallow, among them were Government Ministers, Jimmy Deenihan, Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Pat Rabbitte, Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources; MEP Phil Prendergast and Senator Marie Moloney. This years Board rotation will see the retirement of Conor Creedon of ICMSA, John Cooney ICTU who have given great service to their sectors as well as to IRD Duhallow. They will be replaced by Daniel Roche of Macra na Feirme and Anne Marie Bourke of ICTU. I am confident that the enthusiasm and wisdom of youth and women will find ample resonance around the Board table. I wish to thank all the board members current and retired who have supported me so well during my term as Chairman. In particular, Cormac Collins our Vice-Chairman and those who Chair our Working Groups, where the Board's strategies are implemented.

Finally I want to thank our CEO and Management team who have served me and the Company with such a high degree of loyalty and professionalism. As I hand over the rudder of the ship, which I took on 3 years ago, when there was uncertainty around structures and new governance requirements, a series of budget cuts coupled with increasing demands on our services, the beginning of a Strategic Plan with LEADER two years behind in getting started, and a Life Programme not even at application stage; and now I feel that IRD Duhallow is indeed on the cusp of something great and I wish my successor every success for the coming term.

Michael Twohig
CHAIRMAN

Manager's Report

Looking back over the past twelve months it has been, without a doubt, the busiest we have ever experienced, as all parts of the organisation rise to meet the increasing needs across all our communities with reducing budgets and resources and increased bureaucracy.

The outputs from all our programmes have increased noticeably in the past year thanks to the ground work carried out in the previous two years. Our Board has performed outstandingly, firstly, in providing us with a strategy which has clearly defined goals and targets to be met, secondly in the manner in which it is structured, with working groups led by Board members and drawing on the expertise of communities, business sector, state bodies and specific expertise from schools and colleges, environment organisations and the voluntary sector, to inform and guide our work; and thirdly by providing the governance necessary for a group like IRD Duhallow to deliver a wide range of National and European programmes in a transparent, accountable and value for money manner. The leadership and vision of our outgoing Chairman, Michael Twohig, has been matched only by his passion for the region and high performance standards. I am delighted that he has indicated his willingness to remain on the Board for a second term and no doubt contribute significantly to a number of working groups.

It has been a great year for IRD Duhallow in that the impacts of our strategies are becoming visible in so many ways. The main aim of our Human Resource Strategy, is to increase social capital and that is manifesting itself in so many different ways as you will see from this publication. Duhallow now boasts 16 groups of active retired people, established over the past three years and brought together under our Saoi Network led by the "hyper-actively" retired Jack Roche. The magnificent array of events put on by these groups during "Bealtaine", which ran in Duhallow for the entire month of May, could not be more impressive.

The number of broad community groups has grown to 37 as Glash rises to take its place on our map with ambitious plans to turn their old school building into a community resource centre. This year sees the first of our transnational co-operation projects as communities in Duhallow celebrate "The Day of the Regions" with an action packed 10 days of festivals and fun right across Duhallow.

Our culture strategy, has seen the heritage element begin to rise this year as communities avail of expertise, to identify and plan the re-furbishment and restoration of several heritage buildings. The Bruach na Carraige centre has opened, for this year's Tuesdays Seisúin, with an extended building and purpose built stage with improved lighting and sound. The culmination of dedicated practice and performance by the newly formed Ceoilteoirí Sliabh Luachra, came on a glorious May day when the group was hosted and warmly welcomed to Áras an Uachtaráin by President Michael D. Higgins and his wife Sabina. Eileen Linehan, Triona Murphy and I were honoured to be invited to join them there.

Our Economic Strategy has also seen successes with 52 micro enterprises supported during the year and 275 direct jobs created so far.

Last but not least is our Environment strategy under the stewardship of our Environment Working Group which has really come into itself in the past year. The nationally acclaimed Raptor Project has gone into its second phase and our Hen Harrier satellite tagging project saw the first chick of the season tagged in early July. Almost 100 people turned out for the Dawn Chorus while the Grow it Yourself programme has expanded its remit and attracted new members. The European Life+ programme has delivered a number of tangible results and with the support of the Rural Social Scheme, has eradicated Himalayan Balsam from over 18 kilometres of river bank. Our thanks, to Neil Wilkie, Programme Monitor and Kevin Greene of the Department of the Environment Life+ division for their support. I must acknowledge Sir Charles Keane of the European Landowners Organisation for his invitation to their most interesting Life+ symposium in Brussels and project visit to Flanders. Dr. Ruairí O'Conchúir of the neighbouring Mulkear Life Project hosted a very successful celebration of Life where we met the Irish Projects.



Our LEADER programme has delivered on the Company's development strategy and our project commitments are among the highest in the country. Our thanks to the Project Evaluation Committee chaired by Murt O'Connor of Enterprise Ireland and the trojan work of our Team Leaders and Development Officers. Our thanks to Breda Dooley and Mark McGuire, the Department Inspectors who carried out regular inspections of the programme with courtesy and professionalism and also the Rural Development Division in Tubbercurry and Ballina under Finola Moylette.

The provision of second chance education and training which is local, accessible and affordable for all ages and abilities continues to be a Local Community Development Programme priority of IRD Duhallow. This year over 316 people received certificates and awards at our graduation ceremony with a further 74 coming through our literacy support classes. We wish to

acknowledge the input of Jerry Murphy, Padraig de Burca and Liz O'Connor of Pobal and the Executive of Cork County Development Board in approving the Local Community Development Programme annual plan this year.

Tús has just completed its first year of operation and has proven a tremendous success for participants and communities alike. We were delighted to be allocated a third scheme during the year, which was promptly filled. The Department of Social Protection staff, TJ Fleming and Caroline Carey in Tubbercurry and Sean Murphy along with Collette Vaughan and her team in the local office have been a tremendous support in the smooth roll-out of the scheme. Over 150 unemployed people have been interviewed and assisted and over 100 have already had placements on the scheme.

The RSS continues to provide essential services throughout the Duhallow area and supports many communities and services. Our thanks to Danielle Byrne of Pobal and her team led by Tracy Coyne in Clifden who provide the payroll related functions on our behalf.

Regrettably, this year we have lost two more of our core staff and four from our Warmer Homes Team due to further budget cuts. It has been challenging and I want to commend those who lost their jobs for their understanding and professionalism in dealing with a traumatic and difficult situation. For those who continue the work of IRD Duhallow I have the utmost respect and admiration, the degree of flexibility and can-do approach of our staff led by Eileen Linehan, Helen O'Sullivan and Triona Murphy is unrivalled. They work long hours and take pride in their work, motivated by loyalty to the company, driven by their absolute commitment to our communities and guided by their values in wanting to make the Duhallow region a better and more inclusive place in which to live and work.

My job has been made all the easier thanks to the administration team of Margaret O'Connor, Marie Fleming and Derval Corbett. A special thanks to Theresa Collins for co-ordinating the production of this year's Progress Report. I want to pay tribute in particular to the Chair of the Finance Committee, Cormac Collins and the H.R. Committee Chair Michael Manning for steering us through budget cut backs and redundancies. Also Noel Dillon, Chair of our Social Enterprises, DART and Warmer Homes, for his particular support in difficult times. Finally I want to thank Eileen Linehan, our Senior Team Leader for her exemplary work ethic, her professionalism, dedication and courage. I value very much her personal support to me and her leadership in the Management team.

Our Board, at its recent review and strategic planning concluded that the coming year should have consistency, clarity and calmness; that our organisation has local legitimacy conferred on it by our communities and that we continue to make a difference in the lives of the Duhallow people, reflecting their needs and concerns and fulfilling their ambitions.

Maura Walsh
MANAGER

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 and LIFE+ in order to achieve the economic, social, cultural and environmental development of the Duhallow Region.

The Company has adopted the good governance guidelines as prescribed by the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government. It's Memorandum and Articles of Association also reflect this best practice and are in accordance with the New Charities Act.

The Board membership has been laid down by the Government and reflects the integration of Social Inclusion with 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 in 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 of 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.



IRD Duhallow Board Members

LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND SOCIAL PARTNERS

Michael Twohig

Michael was elected chair of IRD Duhallow in September 2009. He is a founder member of IRD Duhallow and served as Finance Director until he stepped down in 1996. He was reappointed to the Board representing Kanturk Chamber of Commerce. With his wife Noreen he manages the family owned Supervalu 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, LIFE Steering Group, Finance and Audit Working Group and HR Committee.



Anne Maria Bourke

Anne Maria Bourke represents the I.C.T.U. on the board. She is the Principal of Liscarroll N.S which offers special classes for children with autism. Anne Maria is an active member of the union being the current secretary of the Cork Branch of the I.N.T.O. Principal's forum and a member of Cork I.P.P.N. (Irish Primary Principal Network). She sits on the Board of Management of Scoil Mhuire in Kanturk and is Chairperson of the North Cork Primary Schools' Game. She is a keen bridge player and is the current secretary of Brogeen Bridge Club.



Daniel Roche

Daniel Roche is a 22 year old trainee accountant with Grant Thornton Accountants in Limerick. This year he was appointed to the board to represent Macra na Feirme and the Agriculture Pillar. Daniel is a long standing member of Macra na Feirme and is the current Treasurer of the Freemount branch, which won club of the year in 2011. He is also treasurer of Cork County Macra. Daniel who is an avid greyhound enthusiast hails from Banteer.



John Linehan

John, a full time Dairy Farmer from Dromtariffe was elected on to the Board as a representative of the farming sector. He is Chairman of Dromtariffe IFA, is an active member of the Duhallow IFA and is on the Regional Committee for Dairygold Co-Op. He is also the Secretary of Dromtariffe Community Centre and sits on our Agriculture Working Group and Environmental Forum. John has a diploma in Rural Development, is married to Angela and has three children.



John Sheahan

John was re-elected to Kerry County Council in 2009 and was re-appointed to the Board of IRD Duhallow. He is an active member of his local community in Killarney and is a member of the Tralee Road Residence Committee. He is a member of Killarney Tidy Towns, Legion GAA Club, Celtic FC, Planning SPC, Killarney National Parks Liaison Committee, The Association of County and City Councils, Killarney Drugs Liaison Committee, and is Chairman of The Rural Water Committee.



Breeda Moynihan Cronin

Breeda was a member of Dail Eireann from 1992-2007, she served in Kerry County Council from 1999-2003. She has been co-opted onto Kerry County Council following the election of Marie Moloney to Seanad Eireann. She is also on the Board of South Kerry Development Partnership, Kerry Education Services, the HSE, and the Rural Water Committee. She is also Chair of the Housing S.P.C. on Kerry County Council. Breeda lives in Killarney and has been involved in politics in South Kerry for over 20 years and is very familiar with Duhallow.



Dan Joe Fitzgerald

Dan Joe is an elected member of Mallow Town Council since 1994 and Cork County Council since 1999. In 2011 he was elected as Mayor of Mallow for 2011-12. He is Director of North Cork Enterprise Board and Mallow Development Partnership. Dan Joe is Chairman of Housing SPC, a member of the Corporate Policy Group, Cork County Library and Cork County Development Board. He is a member of Irish Red Cross Society and former Central Council member. He chairs IRD Duhallow's Enterprise Working Group and is actively involved in many sporting organisations including the Duhallow Hunt.



John Paul O'Shea

John Paul was elected to the board of IRD Duhallow as an elected member of Cork County Council. At 28 years of age, he is one of the youngest councillors in the country. He has been involved in many community projects in his Local Authority area including taking a leading role in the retention and expansion of rural services. John Paul, who lives in Laharn, is Chairman of IRD Duhallow's Youth & Education Working Group and has expanded the group considerably and he sits on our Employment & Training Working Group. John Paul is also Chairman of Laharn Community Action Group. He works as Communications Officer with the HSE South.



IRD Duhallow Board Members

STATUTORY FORUM AND ENVIRONMENTAL PILLAR

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 which manages the EU LIFE+ Programme.



Cormac Collins

Cormac is Vice Chair of IRD Duhallow. He is ESB Networks Area Manager, and has been appointed to the Board to represent ESB Networks. The ESB Networks has worked closely with IRD Duhallow's CLÁR in delivering three phase electricity to many small industries in Duhallow and has supported the Warmer Home Scheme since the beginning. He is chair of Gneeveguilla Community Council, whose plan has won support of Kerry County Council, LEADER and CLAR and received a Kerry Community Award. He serves on the HR, Finance and Community Development Working Groups.



Dr. Barry O' Donoghue

Barry is a Ranger with the National Parks and Wildlife Service, the government agency responsible for the protection of wildlife and natural habitats. He holds both Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Agriculture & Environmental Science from University College Dublin and a Doctorate from University College Cork for his important work on Hen Harriers. From a background of farming and conservation, Barry feels passionately about enlightening, encouraging and empowering the community to appreciate and protect the habitats and wildlife of Duhallow. He sits on our Environmental Working Group.



Michael Doyle

Michael represents the Environmental Pillar on the board. He is chair of the IRD Environmental Forum and the Equality, Disability and Migrants Working Group. He also is a member of the Finance Committee. He represents IRD Duhallow on the Cork County Development Board and the Cork Sports Partnership Board. He also represents the Board of IRD Duhallow on several National Fora dealing with Equality and Intergration. Michael liaises with the Sports council of Ireland and the National Trails Committee on the development and maintenance of long distance and looped walks.



John Breen

John Breen joined the Board of IRD Duhallow, as a nominee of the Kerry County Manager, Mr. Tom Curran. John is Director of Services, Housing & Social Support and Community and Enterprise as well as Killarney Town Manager. He and his staff in the Community and Enterprise Department support the work of the Kerry County Development Board and 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. John lives in Castleisland with his wife Mary and their three children.



Tom Stritch

Tom Stritch is a Director of Services in Cork County Council and joined the Board of IRD Duhallow in 2008 as the nominee of the Cork County Manager Mr Martin O'Riordan. He has responsibility for the management of the Roads Service for the entire of County Cork and Divisional Services Including Recreation and Amenity in the Northern Division. Tom is Town Manager for Mallow Town Council.



Inspector Tony Sugrue

Tony joined the Board in 2011. He is an Inspector with An Garda Siochana and is presently stationed in Kanturk. Tony was previously based in Macroom but 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 and is also very involved with his local football team and manages the senior GAA team in Kilcummin. Tony sits on the Social Economy Working Group. He is married to Anne and they have three children.



Don Crowley

Don Crowley is from Castlemagner and is a former Chairman of IRD Duhallow having held the position from 2006 until 2009. He is an active member of the Employment & Training and Social Economy Working Groups and was Finance Chair from 2001-2003. He brings experience of business and community projects as well as placing emphasis on lifelong education and training and delivering opportunities for our target groups. Don is Head of Department of Continuing Education at Cork Insitute of Technology.



IRD Duhallow Board Members

COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST AND COMMUNITY FORUM

Sheila Crowley

Sheila was re-elected to the Board of IRD Duhallow in June 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 in to a newly refurbished Heritage Centre. Sheila is a chef by profession and is proprietor of Ard Na Coill Bed and Breakfast in Laharn, on the Duhallow Way walking route.



John Kirwan

John is from Banteer and was re-elected to the Board of IRD Duhallow to represent the South Eastern Duhallow Forum in June for a second term. He is married to Catherine and they have one daughter, Molly. John is Chair of the Community Development and the Employment and Training Working Groups. He sits on the Board of Management of Banteer National School and is currently Chairperson of Banteer, Lyre and Districts Community Council. John is employed by the Department of Justice & Equality and is based in Cork.



Jack Roche

Jack Roche is from Rockchapel and represents Saoi the Network of Active Retired Groups. He sits on the Social Economy, Finance and Community Development Working Groups. He is chairman of IRD Duhallow's Agriculture Working Group and represents IRD Duhallow on Kerry Community Transport and ILDN. Jack represents ILDN on ELARD the European Association for Rural Development of which he is a past president. His interests are in all things rural but his passion is for the promotion of the unique culture of the Sliabh Luachra Region.



Judy O'Leary

Judy represents Women's Group of the Board of IRD Duhallow. She chairs the Women & Childcare Working Group and is a member of the HR Working Group. Judy is a founder member of the Duhallow Women's Forum. She is actively involved with the Irish Country Women's Association and is Public Relations Officer for Cork County and Information Officer for the Dromtariffe Guild. She has also served as Vice Chair of IRD Duhallow. Judy is a strong advocate for equality for women on the Board of IRD Duhallow.



Deirdre Green

Deirdre is from Freemount and was elected to represent North East Duhallow. She holds a Bachelor Business Degree from Cork Institute of Technology and a Higher Diploma in Education from University of Limerick. She works as an accountant in Mallow. Deirdre is very passionate about the development of rural areas and 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 in 2010 to represent the North Eastern Community Forum. He sits on our Community Development Working Group, is a member of our SAOI Network and a member of the Memory Through Media Programme. John is a beef farmer from Cecilstown in the parish of Castlemagner. He is a long time member of Castlemagner GAA club, is also involved with the Ladies Football Club, the Hall Committee and Lohort, Cecilstown Development Association. He has also served as Chairman of Kanturk Mart. John is married to Una and they have three children.



Eugene O'Connor

Eugene was elected to the Board of IRD Duhallow in June 2011 to represent the Western Duhallow Community Forum. He is a Dairy Farmer from Boherbue and a member of the Board of Boherbue Co-op with the past 10 years. He is also a member of the St. Vincent de Paul, the Grotto Committee and the tidy towns committee in Boherbue. Eugene is married to Sheila and has 3 children. He will join IRD Duhallow's Community Development Working Group and Agriculture Working Group.



Collette O'Connor

Collette represents the Western Duhallow Community Forum. She has a degree in Business Studies. Collette spent a 12 years with Merrill Lynch in New York and was very involved in the Irish Community in the States. She served a term as secretary with the Cork Association and played with the Saffron Kilts Ancient Order of Hibernians pipe Band. A member of Cullen Pipe Band Collette has an interest in developing Irish music and culture. She is a native of Cullen now living in Dripsey with her husband Eamon and family. Collette sits on our Community Development and Enterprise Working Groups.



Details of Staff



EILEEN LINEHAN, B.A., MBS, Dip. Per Mng. Dip in Public Procurement EU funded projects

Eileen is Senior Team Leader with responsibility for Monitoring & Project Management of 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, Pobal's Pension Board and Cork North and East Citizens Information Service.



DR. FRAN IGEOE, PHD in Zoology , BSc Science

Fran joined IRD Duhallow as Project Scientist in 2011. He provides scientific support on key target species including Pearl Mussel, Atlantic Salmon, Otter, Kingfisher and Dipper. He designs and co-ordinates the technical element of the project, working with the local community to achieve the projects objectives. He oversees the educational aspects of the project working with local schools and 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.



TRIONA MURPHY, B.Sc Public Health & Health Prom, MBS Co-op & Social Enterprise

Triona joined IRD Duhallow in 2007 and is Community Development & Employment Team Leader. She oversees the RSS, TUS and the Equality for Women Measure. She works 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 and the SAOI Network.



HELEN O'SULLIVAN, B.SOC.SC., M.SOC.SC, DIP COM, LEADERSHIP & MGT, CERT IN AGRI.

With over 7 years experience in both Community Development and Enterprise Helen is the Community Services Team Leader with responsibility for the Warmer Homes Scheme and Rural Transport Programme, liaising with Pobal on the management of these programmes. Helen works with the voluntary groups in South and North Eastern Duhallow on both LEADER and LCDP applications. She is the co-ordinator of the IRD Duhallow After-Schools Service, Bereavement Support and Domestic Violence Helpline.



MARGARET O'CONNOR, MAAT, AIPA

Margaret is the Senior Accounts Administrator and has been employed by IRD Duhallow for fifteen 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, Higher Dip in Food Mkt, Rural Dev & Co-ops, Cert in Agri.

Katie joined IRD Duhallow in 2007. She is responsible for the Diversification measure of LEADER, the Focal Farmer Programme, Duhallow's Bird-watch Group and GIY Duhallow. Katie supports the work of the Agriculture and Environment Working Groups, Duhallow Beekeepers and the Focal Farmer programme. She provides one to one supports, assistance with Farm Assist application and organises various tailored training programmes throughout the year.



MARY Mc HUGH, B.B.S. Postgraduate Dip in Rural Dev, Food Mkt and Co-ops, Cert in Com 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, 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.



LOUISE BOURKE, Bachelor in Civil Law (BCL), Masters in Criminal Justice (LLMC), Masters in Management and Cert in Agri.

Louise joined the IRD Duhallow team in November 2010 as Enterprise and Tourism Officer, co-ordinating LEADER and LCDP project applications. She is staff liaison for the Enterprise Network, Business Mentoring Programme, the Duhallow Carers Group, the PAL group and the Literacy Support Programme. She was responsible for the establishment of the Duhallow boxing club. Louise represents IRD Duhallow on the Go Kerry board and sits on the Kerry Tourism Strategy Group.



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

Marie joined IRD Duhallow in May 2006 and supports the Manager's participation on a number of National and European fora. She provides administration support to Development Officers and co-ordinates the monthly board pack. She is the administrative support for Excellence through People, Ireland's standard for human resource development and co-ordinates training for staff members. Marie is Safety Officer on the Health and Safety Committee. Marie has completed a 2 year Diploma in Rural Development through distance learning with UCC.



DERVAL CORBETT, ECDL

With twelve years service as Clerical Officer with IRD Duhallow, Derval is based in the Reception and Administration Office. She deals with general enquiries and administration and is responsible for the company's stationery orders and oversees the Company's IT systems. She is editor of the monthly Newsletter which is circulated to 10,000 homes in Duhallow. She supports the Manager in her participation on a number of National Networks. Derval is the Authorised Signatory for the processing of Garda Vetting Applications for all LEADER Partnerships.



KIERAN MURPHY, BSc in Wildlife Biology

Kieran originally completed his college work placement with IRD Duhallow in the summer of 2011. Following the completion of his studies he returned in June 2012 as a Development Officer for the LIFE+ Programme and is responsible for the monitoring and improvement of the habitat and wildlife along the River Allow and its catchment area, and carries out extensive survey work. Kieran is also a member of the IRD Duhallow's Environmental Working Group and the Duhallow Bird-watching group.



KASIA MELLER, MA in Political Science, IPASS Payroll Technician

Kasia was appointed Accounts Officer in March 2007 and is Finance Officer on the Community Development Team. She is responsible for the preparation of weekly and monthly accounts for RSS, Warmer Homes, Walks Scheme, TUS, CE, Out of School and Dormant Accounts Fund and prepares quarterly reports to Pobal. Kasia also process the CE and Out of School wages on a weekly basis and she prepares financial reports for the Social Economy meetings and the reports for the Main Board.

LEONARDO da Vinci



Isobel Fletcher

Isobel was appointed project co-ordinator of the LEONARDO da Vinci Programme, Strengthening Local Meat Supply Chains in October 2011. Prior to this she was the National LEADER Food Coordinator where she worked with LEADER Companies, state agencies, and representative bodies to stimulate and develop the small food sector in rural Ireland. Among her achievements in this role were the development of guidelines and best practice documents for LEADER companies on farmers markets, the production of a resource guide for LEADER groups in best practice for the food sector and the coordination of the Meat Matters Training Programme for rural abattoirs. Isobel represented LEADER on the Artisan Forum at the Food Safety Authority of Ireland, and at numerous Bord Bia & Teagasc run events and seminars during her tenure. She was also event managed the LEADER Food Village at the Ploughing Championships for six years.



At the SLMSC launch, (L-R) Joanma Mesado, La Unio, Spain, Isobel Fletcher, IRD Duhallow, Jari Lehmusvara, Satafood Development Association, Finland, Orla Casey, Momentum Marketing Services, Michael Twohig, Chairman IRD Duhallow, Maura Walsh, CEO IRD Duhallow, Sean Sherlock, T.D, Minister of State for Research & Innovation, Teresa Lopez Garcia Usach, IVIFA, Spain, Karen Wahlgreen, Danish Meat Trade College, Denmark & Petri Rinne President of ELARD, Finland, Joutsenten Reitti LAG, Finland.

Strengthening Local Meat Supply Chains (SLMSC) 2011 – 2013

Small abattoirs across rural areas in Europe face many challenges in their efforts to remain viable and provide an important service to the communities in which they are based. Increasing regulation and associated compliance costs in terms of time and onerous paperwork, along with waste disposal charges, levies and testing charges have contributed to the closure of many abattoirs. Add to that, the stiff competition from large supermarket chains with massive marketing budgets and the increase in out of town shopping, the small meat producer is facing a massive struggle to survive in ever challenging times.

In 2011, IRD Duhallow led an application on behalf of an experienced consortium of experts in the meat, farming, training & rural development sectors from Finland, Spain, Denmark & Ireland to develop a transnational programme to look at some practical approaches that abattoir owners and butcher shops can take to maximise their presence and market the quality meat products for which they are renowned. The application was developed following the success of a pilot training programme "Meat Matters" which was funded through LEADER in 2009 /10 and worked with over 40 rurally based abattoirs in Ireland to market and brand their businesses.

The Strengthening Local Meat Supply Chains (SLMSC) project has been funded under the EU Leonardo da Vinci Transfer of Innovation programme to devise a practical e-learning training project that will focus on business development, innovation & marketing opportunities for the sector.



Tim McCarthy chatting about his products with project partner Karen Wahlgreen of the Danish Meat Trade College.

SLMSC was launched in Duhallow last November as the project partners completed their first meeting to begin the research phase and needs analysis for the project by Minister for Research & Innovation Sean Sherlock TD. Minister Sherlock was extremely enthusiastic about the scope and opportunities of the project stating that supporting the agri-food sector was vitally important and would be a major contributor to helping Ireland recover economically.



Mr Sean Sherlock, Minister of State for Research & Innovation guest speaker at the launch of Strengthening Local Meat Supply Chains (SLMSC).

Since November 2011, the project partners have carried out a major needs analysis among abattoirs, butchers and meat processors in each of the partner countries which has determined the areas on which



Fianna Fail Leader Michael Martin samples some of the Cathal Cronin Craft Butcher select cuts at the LEONARDO da Vinci stand.

training material will be developed. At the projects most recent meeting in the Danish Meat Trade College in Roskilde, Denmark, the project team condensed the feedback into 5 modules – each taking a hands on, practical approach to providing innovative solutions to aid competitiveness and increase viability of businesses in the sector.

MODULES

- 1: How to Sell More Meat – Innovative Marketing Solutions
- 2: 21st Century Butcher Shop – With a Focus on Retail
- 3: New Products, New Profits – Innovation Through New Products
- 4: Innovate: Do What You Do, Only Better – Leaner, More Efficient Production Processes
- 5: Your Road map to More Customers – Alternative Routes to Market



Cathal Cronin, of Cronins Butchers Kanturk with Sean Sherlock TD Minister of State for Research & Innovation, at the launch of SLMSC.

The modules are now in the development stage and will move to an e-learning platform prior to being pilot tested with the participating abattoir owners & butchers later in the year. The topics will be developed as stand alone subjects, enabling the end user to delve in and out of topics as necessary and appropriate to the business needs. IRD Duhallow is delighted to be working with Cathal Cronin & Jack and Tim McCarthy, both well known, experienced butchers from Kanturk on this project which will run until October 2013.



The project website http://www.slmisc_project.eu is live where updates and reports are regularly posted. The site is available in each of the partner languages. Updates are also posted on the project Facebook page – <http://www.facebook.com/Slmisc>

Enterprise

The primary objective of IRD Duhallow's enterprise strategy is to fully realise Duhallow's potential to become self-sustaining by encouraging and fostering entrepreneurship, business development and expansion.

IRD Duhallow is actively involved in the economic development of the region and our Enterprise Development Working Group places a keen emphasis on job creation and enterprise sustainment. Our strategy is delivered through our two main programmes, LCDP, for disadvantaged people and long term unemployed and LEADER for Micro Enterprise Support.



Helen O'Sullivan from IRD Duhallow with T.J. Greaney from Bio Atlantis carrying out on site inspections before and after the project. Bioatlantis received LEADER funding to develop their new automated production line.

LEADER SUCCESS

In May, the Auditors of the European Commission came to Ireland to follow up on projects funded in the last LEADER Programme. They visited Autorollers Ltd in Kanturk and were impressed at the success of LEADER in supporting Gerry Collins to develop his business from an initial 5 to now having 23 employees.

Murphy Trailers

Murphy Trailers Ltd has been in existence over 35 years in the line of manufacturing high quality trailers. Currently employing 6 workers, the company is one of its kind in Ireland, acting as an import substitute for car and building trailers for leisure and agriculture. In 2012 the company with LEADER funding purchased new equipment to streamline the manufacture process ensuring the sustainability of the enterprise and jobs.



Liam Murphy from Murphy Trailers Gneeveguilla demonstrating the new machinery which was purchased with the help of LEADER.

LCDP Funding

The Local Community Development Programme boasts a strong theme of job creation for the long term unemployed or underemployed. Through this, small capital grants are awarded to local micro entrepreneurs to help them initiate, expand or develop. One example is Jeanette Dennehy with her business "Thoughts that Count". Originally established with LCDP funding in 2008, her business has grown to the point where it needs to expand and has applied to develop the business with the help of LEADER funding which will result in increased employment.



At the 2011 Ploughing championships, A.J. O'Connor and Kieran Herlihy, LCDP funded young entrepreneurs who developed the ATV Stripgrazer with Macra Vice President Tommy Moyles and National President Alan Jagoe.

LEADER Village at the Ploughing Championships

The National Ploughing Championships were this year held in Athy, Co. Kildare. As always the LEADER Village was a focal point for visitors to the agriculture event. IRD Duhallow showcased a Local Community Development Programme funded project, originally a final year college project, the ATV stripgrazer, the brain-child of college student AJ O'Connor who devised the concept with his business partner Kieran Herlihy. Simplifying fencing, this revolutionary machine attaches to an ATV and puts down and takes up fencing without the hassle of having to get on and off the quad. The duo received funding for marketing material and a demonstration video under the LCDP programme and the invention's success was clearly evident by the large crowd around the stand at the ploughing. IRD Duhallow also took other exhibitors to the ploughing including Duhallow Community Food Service, Jack McCarthy Butchers and Cathal Cronin Butchers, and officially launched the new Meat Matters Initiative under LEONARDO Da Vinci Programme.



Tim McCarthy from McCarthy's of Kanturk and Connie and Cathal Cronin from Cronin's Butchers Kanturk at the IRD Duhallow stand launching the Leonardo Da Vinci Local Meat Supply Chains Programme at the National Ploughing Championships in Athy, Co. Kildare.



Vikki Power from Power PR and Mick Forde, Chairman of the Enterprise Network, at the enterprise network seminar 'Marketing through Social Media.'

Networks

The Enterprise Network is chaired by working group member Mick Forde. The network aims to bring business people together to learn from one another. Throughout the year a number of guest speakers have addressed the network on topical issues including Cloud Computing for the Micro & Small and Medium Enterprises, Marketing

through Social Media, The Importance of Succession planning for Farm and Enterprise and Growing Your Business through Effective Networking. A very important part of any the network meetings is the opportunity to develop business and network with other attendees.

IRD Duhallow Mentoring and Business Training Support Programme

In January 2012 the working group piloted a new mentoring programme and through this, enterprises from around Duhallow can receive expert independent advice and guidance on how best to develop their business. Each applicant can get a maximum of 10 hours mentoring time and this allocation can be entirely spent on one



Catherine Barrett from the sewing room Kanturk, with IRD Duhallow business training support mentors Ruth Cosgrave and Linda O'Mahony, giving advice and guidance on how best she can progress her business.

Enterprise

mentor, or can be split across a number of different experts from different fields. Applications for the mentor pool went to tender in October of 2011 and there is now a wide panel of experts from a variety of backgrounds which can be matched up with entrepreneurs. 27 people are currently availing in the mentor programme.



John Linehan, Chair of the Agriculture Working Group and Louise Bourke, (IRD Duhallow) with Fiona Cronin and Mike Fitzgerald of FDC Accountants, at the Enterprise Network Seminar 'Successful Succession Planning for Farm and Enterprise'.

Start Your Business Bootcamp

The recession has seen a surge in the number of people wishing to become self employed. Many of these have no background or experience in running their own business, and so it is vital that they receive the proper training and support to ensure that they give their business the best possible start. In order to help new entrepreneurs the working group organised a one day 'Start Your Own Business Bootcamp,' which was in essence a crash course in everything you need to know to set up a business. The course was given by Neil O'Brien of Quantum and had 21 attendees, many of whom have since established their new enterprise.



The Eucharistic Congress in Croke Park. The white flooring underfoot was supplied by Allens of Allensbridge who received funding support from LEADER and the Cork County Council Economic Fund.

LEADER & Cork County Council Economic Development Fund

Cork County Council's Economic Fund was set up to promote economic development and job opportunities. Chaired by local Councillor Gerard Murphy, the fund considers applications for capital funding, which are referred for attention by Local Development Agencies. Allens of Allensbridge was one of the first companies to receive a grant under this scheme. It is headed up by husband and wife partnership Liam and Josephine Allen and is a unique enterprise which supplies over pitch flooring for all the National Concerts for the Aviva, Croke Park and the National Ploughing Championships. Capitalising on events with the Eucharistic Congress in Dublin the company needed to purchase additional flooring to fill orders and this was done with the support of LEADER and the Cork County Council Economic Fund.



Conor O'Donoghue displaying his customised maps from Newport Geographic at the Hands of Duhallow Craft Fair.

Hands of Duhallow

The Hands of Duhallow, our Craft Network held its Annual Christmas Craft Fair for the 7th year which was a great success with new and existing crafts people exhibiting their products for this two day event. The range of products on display demonstrated the high quality craft expertise that has been created and nurtured in Duhallow. Products ranging from hand made candles, cards and jewellery to cut glass and bog oak were on sale. The artist's corner and the IRD Duhallow Revamp Furniture corner added an extra dimension to the event with Duhallow Community Food Services Tea Rooms offering a seasonal selection of both sweet and savoury temptations.



Don Murphy and Con O'Sullivan, IRD Duhallow Tús Scheme explaining the IRD Duhallow Revamp project at the Hands of Duhallow Craft Fair.

The craft sector in Duhallow has continued to develop in the last 12 months and has a significant role to play in our local economy. Many people in the past worked part time on their craft or just had it as a hobby, now with job losses many people are looking at turning their craft into a viable full time job. One example of this is local man Jeremiah Dennehy who ran "Kanturk Fitted Kitchens". With the



downturn in the construction sector, Jeremiah had to diversify in order to remain viable. He identified a gap in the market for hand crafted products made from materials such as bog oak and bog dale including lamps, bowls and mirrors. With support from the LEADER Programme Jeremiah is in the process of developing a production facility and exhibition space in Kanturk for his craft business "Brogan Crafts".



Jeremiah Dennehy, Brogeen Crafts, hard at work manufacturing a centrepiece which was later presented President Michael D. Higgins.

LIFE +

The IRD Duhallow LIFE+ programme is a €1.9m conservation project aimed at conserving endangered wildlife species in the Duhallow area. The project is co-financed by the EU Commission and the Irish exchequer. IRD Duhallow and our project partner, Inland Fisheries Ireland, are working with stakeholders to deliver this large scale project. The project is only one of four LIFE Nature/Biodiversity projects funded in Ireland. Key project actions are targeting threatened native species; European Otter, Kingfisher, Atlantic Salmon and Freshwater Pearl Mussel. The River Allow and its tributaries are the focus of a range of measures; from the removal of non-native vegetation on river banks, planting and coppicing of trees, placement of bird nesting boxes under bridges and the creation of resting areas for otters, to fencing of land adjacent to the river and bank stabilisation work where bank erosion is a problem. Additional works aim to reduce the impact of river discharge during flood conditions and consequential siltation of the river bed. These works are being carried out by IRD Duhallow's Rural Social Scheme participants. The overall aim is to improve the habitat for species within the Upper Blackwater Special Area of Conservation.



Celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the EU LIFE programme in Limerick were: (Standing) Dr. Andy Bleasdale, Lorcan O'Toole, Golden Eagle Trust, Dr. Brendan Dunford, Burren LIFE, Brendan Lally, Coillte, Ruairi O'Conchúir, Mulkear LIFE, Amanda Mooney, IFI, Francis Lucey, I.T. Sligo, Maura Walsh IRD Duhallow LIFE, Dr. Michael Millane, CAISE IFI, (Sitting) Michael Doyle, IRD Duhallow LIFE, Glen Wightman, Mulkear LIFE, Angela Wallis, Coillte.

Wildlife survey

A prerequisite to the implementation of the main project actions is the survey of biodiversity and target species in the project area. A study of the fish stocks in the Rivers Allow and Dalua to determine the distribution of salmon within the catchment was carried out last September. A detailed subaqua survey of the Pearl mussel, determined that this species has declined by 50% over a two year period on an important study site in the River Allow.

A novel survey was carried out in partnership with the Kanturk Trout Angling Club. This survey aimed to assess the distribution of the parasitic phase of the Freshwater Pearl Mussel, known as Glochidia. These free swimming juvenile mussels over-winter attached to the gills of fish prior their settlement in river gravel, after the adult mussels have spawned. Examination of the gills of fish for the presence of these Glochidia gives a good indication of their overall distribution. The angling club captured fish by rod and line. They were subsequently examined by the project team and students from



Tralee Institute of Technology undergraduate students Caroline Keane and John Murphy examine the gills of trout for evidence of the parasitic phase of the Freshwater Pearl Mussel glochidia.

the Institute of Technology Tralee and the presence of Glochidia noted. All fish were returned alive to the river.

Samples from otter survey work were provided to Waterford Institute of Technology, who confirmed, using sophisticated DNA techniques that the otter sampling programme is on track. Other universities including University College Cork and University College Dublin are also providing support. In addition, volunteers, conservation groups and private companies are also providing assistance.

River Bank Erosion

Additional survey work was carried out to measure the rate of erosion and suspended solids during flooding periods which is of major concern to both IRD Duhallow and to landowners. Further work by the project team has shown that erosion is particularly severe in some parts of the catchment and is contributing a significant amount of silt to the river bed. Siltation of the river bed is of particular concern for the health of salmon spawning beds and juvenile mussel habitat.



RSS workers continue into their second year of eradicating the invasive Himalayan Balsam from the banks of the Allow River.

On the ground actions

Surveys of the non-native plant, known as the Himalayan balsam, found that the extent of this invasive plant was much more widespread than previously thought. In excess of 18km of banks were covered by the project team. This is the largest Himalayan balsam removal project ever to be undertaken in Ireland and possibly in Europe. Results of this work have been very encouraging and the density of plants recorded in 2012 is much lower than that recorded for 2011. It is important that this work is continued to ensure its long term success. IRD Duhallow would like the public to report any sightings of Himalayan balsam within the Allow River catchment, north of Banteer village.



RSS participants plant willow stakes and slips to increase bank protection from erosion by flood waters on the River Allow.

A trial was conducted to determine the suitability of willow tree planting as a technique to reduce bank erosion. Initial results show that this has been successful in some places but in other areas complimentary bank stabilisation measures will be required. A survey was conducted to determine the natural pattern of tree species along the river banks where good tree habitat was present. This will be used to inform future tree planting exercises where vegetation is lacking.

Retrofitting work on previous bank revetment work by Inland Fisheries Ireland was carried out in Freemount. This work stabilised the river bank which had been undermined by excavation works. Christmas tree tops were pinned to revetment logs to develop a secondary bank and reduce river bank erosion. The revetment work was also stabilised by jamming rocks and large stones beneath the undermined river bank.

LIFE +



RSS participants repair a section of damaged bank revetment originally placed by Inland Fisheries Ireland on the River Allow at Freemount.

Survey work highlighted areas where otter numbers were low. Otter holts (homes) were constructed and placed at suitable locations. Bird boxes were also strategically placed at bridge sites. Initial results are very promising as approximately 40% of the sites where bird nest boxes were placed were subsequently occupied.

Media

National and local radio interviews were given to highlight the project and the importance of public participation. Articles have been published in the local and national press together with regular features in the IRD Duhallow newsletter. A DVD has been produced to give an overview of the project and the target species. This DVD will be launched later in the year to coincide with the 20th anniversary of the EU LIFE Programme.



Mick Fanning and Kennedy O'Sullivan of Freemount National School rescues live Pearl Mussels washed up on the bank during the recent floods.

Schools and wildlife mapping

A major schools awareness initiative aimed at 36 National Schools and 5 post primary schools commenced in 2012. Students or "wildlife detectives" are recording and mapping wildlife in their locality. The data has been collected from the school children and is currently being added to the project's Geographical Information System, which will allow for computer analysis. The project is also working in partnership with the National Biodiversity Data Centre to put this information on the internet for the public to appreciate.



UCC PhD student Haibo Huang, lending his expertise to Fran Igoe and Kieran Murphy for the collection of topographical data for Digital Elevation Modelling for the LIFE Programme.

Something Fishy

In partnership with Inland Fisheries Ireland, IRD Duhallow has been working with the local national schools to bring the wildlife of the rivers in Duhallow closer to school children. This educational activity is an important aspect of the project, as it provides a hands on experience of the aquatic environment to school children, in a safe environment. The work includes demonstrations on the biological methods used by the Environmental Protection Agency to measure water quality, and electrofishing methods used by Inland Fisheries Ireland to survey fish.



Fran Igoe explains the benefits of silt traps as a technique to improve water quality to children at a project information evening.

Information lectures and workshops

A number of information lectures were organised to increase awareness of the project locally. A project update was given to highlight the successes of the project to date and the challenges ahead. It is planned to produce information leaflets to provide information on some of the techniques being developed by the project team with particular tips for farming for the environment.



Community participation is high in Duhallow.

Stakeholder liaison

IRD Duhallow continues to liaise with stakeholders in the catchment. These stakeholders are vitally important to the success of the project as they not only understand the local issues that need to be addressed in the context of the project but also provide valuable advice. Statutory agencies such as National Parks and Wildlife Services are also consulted as these agencies provide the licensing necessary for the monitoring and on-the-ground work.



Members of the Coillte District Social and Environmental Panel with members of IRD Duhallow's Environmental Working Group after a very successful stakeholder meeting of the IRD Duhallow LIFE Project.

Agriculture

There is a new focus on the contribution of agriculture to the national economy and on the importance of a thriving agricultural sector to economic recovery. Ambitious targets for the future have been clearly outlined in the Food Harvest 2020 report. The attainment of targets outlined in the report will involve increased farm efficiency, scale and adoption of new methods and technologies. Against this background and guided by the work of the Agriculture Working Group, IRD Duhallow implements a range of supports for farm families through the LEADER and LCDP Programmes in order to improve on farm efficiencies and encourage farm diversification. Farming families play an important role in rural communities and developing complementary on farm enterprises will guarantee a viable future for the next generation.



Kiskeam Focal Farmer Member Vincent Guiney who's herd for 2011 averaged 1666 gallons@ 4.49 fat and 3.66 protein average 636kgs milk solids per cow in 283 days.

Focal Farmer Programme

The main aim of the Focal Farmer Programme is to increase the level of income, improve quality of life and reduce rural isolation for low-income farming families. Prioritisation of low income farm families through the Focal Farmer Programme is an important part of IRD Duhallow operations. The agri food industry is a successful, dynamic and multi-faceted natural resource that makes a significant contribution to Duhallow's economic and social development. During the year the Agriculture Working Group organised a number of events, seminars and workshops. Dr Doreen Corridan and Don Crowley Teagasc presented on the importance of Herd Health to over 80 farmers, Michael Fitzgerald Tax Consultant with FDC Accountants presented on Succession Planning, officials from the Department of Agriculture, Coillte, NPWS, Kerry CoCo and An Garda Síochána informed farmers on scrub burning, 15 farmers completed an IT course on EFEIRM and 21 women attended the annual Irish Country Living Women In Agriculture Conference in Kilkenny.

The Focal Farmer Programme directly supports 100 farm families through on farm efficiency grants. More and more farmers are recognising the benefits of Milk Recording and A.I. Milk recording data from the ICBF shows that there has been a 34% increase in milk recording since 2005 the largest annual increase of 10% being last year. In 2011 a long standing member of the Focal Farmer



Don Crowley Dairy Advisor Teagasc, Dr. Doreen Corridan Munster AI Herd Health Services and John Linehan Chairperson of IRD Duhallow Agricultural Working Group who were guest speakers at a Herd Health Seminar.

Programme Vincent Guiney, Kiskeam reached top of the score board in terms of average fat and protein yield per cow from Kerry Agribusiness. Vincent states: "You're nowhere today without Milk Recording or AI these grants are essential to us."

Farm Diversification:

LEADER's main aim is to strengthen the rural economy and to improve quality of life in rural areas. Through focusing on the key principles of innovation, sustainability and economic viability LEADER has made significant contributions to sustaining farm families in Duhallow. Local jobs and enterprises are essential to the survival and growth of rural economies and diversification projects which are linked to local and natural resources are much more likely to be sustained long-term. Agri tourism, speciality food provision and equestrian facilities are some examples of complementary activities funded through LEADER 07-13 that combine with farming activities and provide farm families with the opportunity to become more sustainable. Danny Duloher and Michelle Fitzmaurice of Kilguilkey House received LEADER funding to develop a state of the art Cross Country Eventing Course. Kilguilkey House offers some of the finest equestrian facilities in Munster covering all areas of equestrian sport including Hunter Trials, Evening Show Jumping, Dressage and Cross Country. Facilities are utilised by Eventing Ireland, the Irish Pony Club, Duhallow Hunt and Duhallow Pony Club. During 2012 Kilguilkey will host the Irish Pony Club Minimus Championships and have been selected to host a number International and National equestrian events.



Kilguilkey House Equestrian received LEADER Funding to develop a state of the art Cross Country Course. The facility offers some of the finest equestrian facilities in Munster covering all areas of equestrian.

IRD Duhallow's Farmers Market

The primary aim of Kanturk Farmers Market is to support local farmers who produce food locally with a market for their produce. The market provides customers with a range of naturally produced food at reasonable prices. In the last two years the pace of market growth has slowed and talking to producers at the market it is evident that Kanturk Farmers Market didn't escape the chill wind of recession that is blowing across the county. However for the third consecutive year the market was awarded the Voluntary Code of Good Practice which gives an assurance to customers that in the case of the market in Kanturk 100% of the produce sold is sourced locally. Selling at the farmers market is a stimulus for farmers and their families to supplement on-farm income and is an excellent environment in which to introduce new products to the market.



Representatives from the Dept of Agriculture, Coillte, NPWS, An Garda Síochána, and Kerry County Council speaking at a Seminar on Land Burning

Agriculture



A group of Duhallo farm families who completed Efeirm with Joan Maguire Training pictured with Katie Crowley IRD Duhallo.

Duhallo Bee Keepers – Bees a lifelong passion

Andrew Bourke Secretary of Duhallo Beekeepers was awarded the *President's Trophy* by Denis Ryan President of the National Beekeepers Federation during the Annual Convention of Beekeepers in Gormanstown Co Meath. Andy has been beekeeping with the last 30 years and the award was made in recognition of his outstanding



contribution to Duhallo Beekeepers, Beginner Beekeepers and the Local Community. Andy believes the bee is a fascinating creature, which is still not fully understood, such is their importance in pollinating plants and crops, that if bees were eradicated, it is estimated that humanity would only survive for four years. Andy regards honey as the best healer "for just about anything". Interest in keeping bees continues to increase and there is definite potential in bees when it comes to supplementing on-farm income. Demand for locally produced honey far outweighs supply and Duhallo Beekeeping Association welcomes new members. The LCDP funded Apiary which is located on the grounds of the James O'Keeffe Institute hosted three demonstrations during the year and a Beekeeping Training Course was also organised for individuals interesting in refreshing their skills and for beginner beekeepers.



A large crowd attended an information seminar on Beekeeping organised by Duhallo Beekeepers and IRD Duhallo.



A selection of locally produced food which was produced by members of the GIY group.

GIY Duhallo

GIY Duhallo continues to grow, the vision of the group is to create a healthier, more sustainable and more connected society where people grow their own food. We inspire and empower people to grow their own food by bringing them together on a monthly basis to share tips, ideas and produce. Members of the group have access to the LCDP funded Polytunnel to develop their growing skills and for beginners to learn new skills. A *Harvest Festival* took place last September which was a celebration of the food grown by the group which was served as an impressive supper with the assistance of Duhallo Community Food Services to over 40 individuals. GIY Duhallo is also involved in a transnational project with England, Germany and Slovenia funded by the National Agency, Léargas through the lifelong learning programme Grundtvig. This aim of the project is to learn and experience how individuals and communities are motivated by growing their own food and to share best practice by engaging the wider community.

The Future

On the ground, there is a cautious optimism regarding the recovery of farm incomes and farmers are very much aware of the inherent volatility of this sector. The vast differences in income between farm systems and sizes and the aging farm population will impact on the extent to which the targets set in the Food Harvest 2020 Report can be achieved. However one thing is certain several Duhallo farm families will continue to be dependant on off farm income whether through RSS or other work.



Roger Creswell, Patrick Brosnan and Martin Chance GIY Duhallo, home grown vegetable producers.



A large crowd enjoyed the Harvest Festival meal, prepared by the staff of Duhallo Community Food Services.



GIY Members Pat Enright, Anne Shine, Brendan O'Connor and Ester Murphy planting fruit trees in James O'Keeffe's orchard.



Meta from Slovenia attending the weekly market in the city, where she sells a variety of herbs and tea, Meta is also actively involved in the Grundtvig project.

Community Development

Improving the Quality of Life in Rural Areas

Quality of life heavily influences the long term viability of Duhallow's communities. It is determined by many different social, economic, environmental and cultural elements that interlink and have significant impacts on the demographics of the region. Poor quality of life often leads to out-migration and can aggravate a downward spiral of depopulation, whereas high quality of life tends to encourage inward investments, thriving services and an attractive healthy environment.



Fr. Kennelly with members of Boherbue Grotto Committee at the official unveiling of the LEADER funded Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto.

IRD Duhallow has provided support through LEADER for projects that demonstrate appropriate improvements in essential social infrastructure for rural communities, community centres, recreational facilities and amenities. The provision of appropriate meeting spaces for all age groups and sectors of the community is essential for the development of sustainable rural communities. Significant investments have been made by communities across the whole region in community halls, meeting rooms, gyms, walkways, playgrounds, leisure facilities, village enhancements and historical and cultural projects are also featuring. The communities own contribution of matching funding in terms of voluntary labour, donations of land and buildings and hard cash is commendable.



Members of Newmarket Development Association keeping an eye on their as works commence on their LEADER funded project at Newmarket Town Park.

Duhallow now has 37 geographically based communities but you will note from this progress report that there are hundreds of communities of interest being supported and indeed established focused on youth, women and the actively retired as well as cultural, historical and minority sports. The number of community projects across all measures in LEADER continues to grow as does the number of new groups tackling new social inclusion issues.

Community Elections

Bottom up Community Development principles have been employed over the last 20 years, which has resulted in strong social capital being built as well as an ethos of volunteerism in the community which has stimulated and sustained development locally. IRD Duhallow's community forum consists of representatives from community and voluntary groups throughout the region. Duhallow is divided



Nellie Linehan making a St Brigid's cross at the celebration of the life of St. Brigid facilitated by Sr. Maureen Cahill.

into three regions, South Eastern, Western and North Eastern Duhallow, each region elects two members to our Board in direct elections. The South Eastern Duhallow Elections were held in June with Sheila Crowley and John Kirwan being re-elected onto the board.

Embracing Change as an Opportunity

Tackling rural community issues often involves adapting to changing circumstances in rural areas, which may be driven by various factors including: demographic changes and the reduced dominance of traditional rural business sectors. Duhallow has experienced significant socio-economic and demographic changes over the past decade. Such changes can sometimes be considered problematic but many community development opportunities can actually be created by embracing change. The old schoolhouse in Glash has been a



Members of Folloighig Development Association at the official reopening of their Old School House which was funded through LEADER and now provides a multipurpose community centre for the area.

landmark in the community since it was built in 1883, it closed as a result of depopulation and a consequent reduction in the number of pupils. Plans are currently underway however to renovate the building so its legacy of serving its community may continue into the future as a community resource centre.

Kerry Community Awards

IRD Duhallow is a long standing supporter of the Kerry Community Awards which is coordinated by the Kerry Community and Voluntary Forum of the Kerry County Development Board. The Awards Initiative, now in its 9th year, aims to recognise, reward and encourage the efforts of the community and voluntary sector, which works to



Michael Brennan, The Kerryman, Eileen Linehan, IRD Duhallow, Tim Buckley, Mayor of Kerry, Triona Murphy, IRD Duhallow and Sean McCarthy, Kerry County Council attending the launch of the 2012 Kerry Community Awards in Killarney.



Louise Bourke, Marie Fleming, Triona Murphy and Helen O'Sullivan, IRD Duhallow with Val Moynihan and Eilish Coakley of Rathmore Pantomime Group 'The Marian Players' who received a Special Merit Award at Kerry Community Awards.

Community Development

improve the social, economic, cultural and environmental quality of life in local communities throughout Kerry. Recognising their high level of success, Rathmore Pantomime received a special merit this year. Rathmore will now also go on to represent Kerry at the national Pride of Place competition 2012.

Domestic Violence

With 1 in 5 women and 1 in 16 men at risk of experiencing domestic violence at some time in their lives IRD Duhallow has continued its work in addressing this problem. January 2011 saw the launch of the IRD Duhallow Domestic Violence Helpline and the service has received over 150 phone calls from both males and females in abusive relationships. Our 15 volunteers have provided support and information to our callers and helped them access the vital services that they require. IRD Duhallow has responded to the needs of our callers and expanded the service to include one to one support with over 20 sessions provided to date.



Helen O'Sullivan IRD Duhallow & Judy O'Leary Duhallow Womens Forum with local volunteers at a balloon releasing ceremony raising awareness of domestic violence in Duhallow as part of the International 16 Days of Action Awareness Campaign.

Information workshops with transition year students in local secondary schools were held in order to raise awareness. In November, the 16 Days of Action Awareness Campaign against Domestic Violence was promoted where it hosted a coffee morning in Kanturk Farmers Market to further raise awareness of our support group. A balloon releasing ceremony which remembered the 1 in 5 women living with domestic abuse accompanied the event. The support of our local Gardai has ensured that our service is working in conjunction with the gardai who are on the frontline of abusive situations.



Laharn Cross received grant assistance towards landscaping and signage at their heritage centre and cross roads.

Volunteering

Our Community Development and Capacity Building work over the past two decades has resulted in hundreds of local people volunteering in all sectors and activities to make Duhallow a better place for everyone. Support groups for Carers, Domestic Violence and Bereavement Support are staffed by volunteers. A number of Community Crèches and Cultural Centres operate under strict governance provided by volunteers, while the everyday work of litter picking, village enhancement, community centre management and sports coaching involves several hundred volunteers. In addition communities are addressing new needs and providing the impetus for the development of new amenities such as playgrounds, community gyms and making space for men and older people to meet and socialise.

PAL

Funded under the Local Community Development Programme, the PAL group comprises of lone parents from around Duhallow. The group comes together to share experiences, enjoy peer support and a chat. Throughout the year they organised seminars to train, inform



Local children in Lismire enjoy an afternoon of fun at the opening of the new Lismire community playground.



Members of Millstreet Tidy Towns Committee on one of their regular outings to tidy up the roads in Millstreet.

and help support lone parents in their role. They have held First Aid Training, helping lone parents to cope with the frightening situation of what happens when a child gets injured. Mick Corcoran of the Warmer Homes Scheme volunteered to help teach the PAL group members practical tips for D.I.Y. including changing a tyre and bleeding a radiator. A seminar featuring MABs on budgeting and living on a budget and the group also ran a one day seminar on Growing Your Own fruit and vegetables promoting healthy eating and utilising your garden. PAL has a busy programme of activities planned for the coming year and the group is open to all lone parents from throughout the Duhallow region.



At the launch of Rathmore Pantomime "Cinderella": (Standing) Danny Healy Rae, Cllr Tom Fleming, Cllr John Sheehan, Cllr Noel Buckley, Senator Tom Sheehan, (Sitting) Aine Collins TD, Minister Jimmy Deenihan, Maura Walsh IRD Duhallow, Michael Healy Rae TD..

LEADER

LEADER has received much publicity since its roll out in Ireland in January 2009. Many critics have cited the insurmountable task for Local Actions Groups of committing and spending the €400m plus allocated to the programme nationally. In Duhallow, we have always been confident that our local community would bring forward quality projects and spend our full allocation of €10.3 million for the period 2007-2013, despite the 2 year delay. Having delivered the 3 previous LEADER programmes, we know the trends. The first year or so is spent animating our communities through our dedicated staff and Board, commitments peak mid way through the programme and payments rise from the middle to the end of the programme. However, the "annualisation" of the programme saw many groups including IRD Duhallow starved of funds in the first two years of the roll out. Now just into its fourth year, Duhallow's LEADER programme is nearing full commitment stage and of the €10.3 million LEADER funds, 80% of our project budget is committed to over 220 projects, putting us in the top three groups in the Country in terms of commitments.



Donal Murphy
Former general
Secretary of ICMSA
and founder of James
O'Keeffe Foundation
along with his wife
Agatha receives a
presentation from
Chairman Michael
Twohig to mark his
retirement from the
foundation.



Maurice O Riordan Founder
member of the James O'Keeffe
Foundation unveiling the Donal
Murphy Board Room.

Communities were quick to access funding under the Basic Services for the rural population measure given the long interregnum between programmes and the fact that sports capital and lotto funding were not available. This measure aims to provide support to local communities for refurbishment works to local community centres and other local facilities and has been fully subscribed since October 2010. We were delighted that Minister Hogan announced an additional €10m for Basic services earlier this year and we have just submitted our pipeline of projects valued at over €800,000 to the Department that were on our waiting list for funding under this measure.

In the meantime, our focus has been on delivering the village and countryside enhancement measure, which is also nearing full commitment at this stage.

We are currently rolling out a built heritage training programme. A number of communities have participated and so received the necessary support to identify areas and buildings of historical significance in their communities resulting in increased applications under the Conservation and upgrading of rural heritage.

Following our investment in targeted supports for rural enterprises through mentoring, enterprise workshops and business training, we have an increase in applications for funding under the business creation and development measure and we now have 80% of this budget committed to projects with a total of 810 jobs created. The department recently got approval from the European Commission to increase the rate of grant aid for enterprise projects from 50% to 75% which reduces the burden of raising bank loans as private matching funding for private promoters.



On the invitation of Mairead Lavery,
Editor of Irish Country Living in the Irish
Farmers Journal, Maura Walsh chaired
the "Women in Agriculture Conference"
held in Kilkenny in October

We are particularly pleased that Ministers Coveney and Hogan were able to find a mechanism to allow LEADER support small food enterprises through Axis 1 with €5 million being made available nationally.

During 2012, the department also gave approval for voluntary labour to be included in tourism projects for communities. This rule change has provided a much needed boost for tourism in the region given the goodwill of many of our communities to engage in common good projects for tourism.

In May this year, following a formal State Aid notification process, the maximum grant amount for flagship community projects funded under the Basic Services for the economy and rural population and the Village Renewal and Development measures was reintroduced at €500,000. However, the long delay has meant planning permission had expired on our flagship project which means this process must now start all over again.



MEP Phil Prendergast
visited the office of IRD
Duhallow to see first
hand how the integrated
model of local
development is delivered
in Duhallow with Triona
Murphy, Cllr. Breda
Moynihan Cronin,
Michael Twohig,
Chairman, Maura Walsh,
CEO, Senator Marie
Maloney and Eileen
Linehan.

A European Perspective

The development of the new LEADER programme well underway in Brussels. The DG Agri Commissioner Dacian Ciolos at ENRD's LEADER event in Brussels highlighted that the local development approach that is LEADER plays an important role in CAP. He stated that "the evolution of LEADER since its creation has shown that collective, local initiatives could come to drive development in rural zones and even beyond".



Breda Dooley, Department Inspector
on a post payment inspection visit to
the LEADER funded Ballyhass Lakes
Climbing wall with Eileen Linehan.

It is proposed that LEADER should remain compulsory with a minimum spending rate of 5% of the EAFRD envelop in each Rural Development Programme, that the LEADER approach should be available for all rural development priorities which contribute to the Europe 2020 strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. In the future, the LEADER approach is to be the driver of Community Led Local Development in a multi fund context. This new concept of CLLD

will give groups like IRD Duhallow the opportunity to design multi fund strategies and to return to one of the initial tenets of the LEADER approach, but this time in a mainstream context and not as a Community Initiative.

It is imperative therefore that in any Alignment Process that the integrity of the Local Development Groups remains intact, by way of Area Based, Bottom-up Local Action Groups, Integrated and Multi-sectoral legal entities separate from Local Government.



The LEADER
village
at the ploughing
championships
which had over
100,000 visitors
last year.

LEADER Projects 09/13

| Project Name | Description | € |
|---|--|----------|
| Support for Business Creation & Development | | |
| Hickey Metering Ltd | Funding to start up business involving the purchase of hardware and software. | €14,000 |
| Social Economy Working Group | Analysis and development of proposals for development of Community Enterprise | €4,410 |
| Brian Paterson & Sarah Evans trading as The Secret Garden | To construct a classroom facility, develop outdoor demonstration area and provide car park. | €16,100 |
| Cube Business Consulting | Feasibility on business consultancy | €17,625 |
| Maritime Tourism | Feasibility study and development of CRM system | €17,010 |
| Bioatlantis Manufacturing | Development of a new production line. | €52,311 |
| Swipe Solutions | Feasibility into new software development | €30,000 |
| Night Owl Blending Co | Feasibility into new business start up | €30,000 |
| Enterprise Development Working Group | Enterprise Conference | €7,783 |
| Murphy Trailers Ltd. | The purchase of new equipment for Murphy Trailers | €59,214 |
| Allens Allensbridge Ltd. | The purchase of new Rola Trac flooring | €149,996 |
| Murt McSweeney | The purchase of new equipment for the making of Sagan Chairs | €1,477 |
| Jeremiah Dennehy | Capital development of Craft Studio for Brogeen crafts | €104,181 |
| Care 2 Share Ltd. | The purchase of marketing and start up equipment for Care 2 Share Ltd. | €650 |
| Night Owls Blending Ltd. | Funding for capital works and building fit out including test kitchens for Night Owls Blending Company. | €150,000 |
| Ballydesmond Leisure Ltd. | Funded to develop an astro turf pitch in Ballydesmond. | €109,716 |
| Sheila Carver | Marketing and Promotional Material for corkentertainment.ie | €1,335 |
| Jerry Pat O'Leary | Purchase equipment for the loft fitness studio Millstreet. | €10,534 |
| Solido Ltd. | The purchase of new equipment to allow for company diversification. | €12,584 |
| Alu Cat Ltd. | The purchase of new capital equipment. | €61,138 |
| Catherine Barrett | The purchase of equipment to develop a Sewing School in Kanturk. | €2,746 |
| Jeanette Dennehy | Upgrade of facilities and office equipment for Thoughts that Count. | €11,164 |
| Front Line Talent Agency Ltd. | The development and purchase of marketing and promotional material. | €9,979 |
| Hickey Metering Ltd | Purchase of specialised equipment | €31,650 |
| Deirdre O'Reilly | Purchase of Equipment for Agility Fitness Studio | €7,496 |
| James Hickey | Purchase of equipment for craft enterprise. | €21,187 |
| Millstreet Community Development Association Ltd | Development of e-centre | €10,000 |
| Diversification into Non Agriculture Activities | | |
| Ballymaquirke Fruit Farm | Upgrading of facilities of jam production | €11,422 |
| Declan & Patricia O' Riordan | Development of 4 star accommodation & walk | €47,000 |
| Kilguilkey House Equestrian | Development of Equestrian Facilities at Kilguilkey Hse | €62,755 |
| Kanturk & District Community Council | Grant aid material and equipment for display boards and promotion of the first Arts Festival in Kanturk | €4,987 |
| Banteer Community Hall | The expansion of the facility to include changing rooms, showers, steam room, toilets and gym equipment | €143,140 |
| Ballydaly Community Hall | To install a new heating system in the hall comprising of seven new radiators, a boiler and a tank for oil | €4,035 |
| Freemount Community Playground | | |
| Development Association | Development of site for playground with fencing and soft tiles | €42,020 |
| Freemount Community | Remove current floor of the Community Hall and replace with new concrete floor incorporating | |
| Development Association | under floor heating. | €39,226 |
| Duhallow Choral Society | Purchase of equipment & Uniforms | €15,700 |
| Social Economy Working Group | Equipment for development of social enterprise | €12,558 |
| Community Development Working Group | Development of media training room for community radio | €25,477 |
| JOK Trust | Refurbishment of kitchen for after schools service | €42,372 |
| Kanturk & District Community Council | Replacement of Crib Figures | €2,250 |
| Dromtariffe Parish Hall Association | Refurbishments work to hall | €54,540 |
| Rathmore Social Action Group | Equipment for drama & variety shows | €11,196 |
| Rockchapel Community Centre committee | Refurbishment works to hall | €30,938 |
| Comhaltas Ceoilteoiri Eireann - Rockchapel branch | | |
| Kanturk & District Community Council | Development of Community Hostel | €500,000 |
| Bweeng Community Hall Committee | Refurbishments to Edel Quinn Hall | €34,015 |
| Freemount Development Association | Development of amenity area | €37,256 |
| Ballydesmond Community Centre Committee | Roofing of community hall | €38,862 |
| Meelin Community Hall | Refurbishment works to hall | €47,857 |
| Lyre Old School | Refurbishment works to hall | €16,135 |
| Banteer Community Sportsfield Ltd. | Refurbishment works to hall | €150,000 |
| Saoi Network | Repairs to Banteer Community Sports Spectator Stand | €4,436 |
| Kiskeam Development Association | Rural Communities Digital Security System | €100,500 |
| | Refurbishment of Kiskeam Community Centre | €85,724 |
| Village Renewal & Development | | |
| Boherbue Development Association | Reposition the village pump to its original place and lay down stone work and flower beds | €2,238 |
| Nadd Development Group | Landscaping in village | €2,100 |
| Araglen Development Association | Extension of glouneen river walk | €120,000 |
| Kiskeam Development Association | Installation of foot-bridge to complete loop walk and enhance social integration | €49,688 |
| Banteer Community Sportsfield Ltd. | Upgrading of existing walk | €28,996 |
| Ballydesmond Village Renewal | Village Renewal Works | €21,866 |
| Lismire Community Playground | Development of new playground | €38,769 |
| Gneeveguilla Hall | Feasibility into development of new community multipurpose hall | €26,136 |
| Foiloighig Community Centre | Refurbishment works to old school | €21,560 |
| Kilbrin Community Hall | Refurbishment works to hall | €4,259 |
| Kiskeam Village renewal | Village Renewal works | €4,148 |
| Boherbue Grotto Subcommittee | Development of grotto | €62,317 |
| Boherbue Parish Hall | Refurbishment works to hall | €150,000 |
| Laharn Community Enhancement project | Enhancement of accessibility to heritage centre | €16,078 |
| Bween Community Hall Committee | Bweeng Sports Grounds Feasibility Study | €4,193 |
| Donoughmore Community Centre Ltd. | Donoughmore Outdoor Fitness Amenity | €10,920 |
| Newmarket Community Development | Newmarket Village Renewal Project | €38,139 |
| Castlemanger Community Centre Committee | Refurb of Castlemagner Hall | €98,432 |
| Dromtariffe Parish Hall Association | Dromtariffe Parish Hall refurbish | €31,938 |
| Rathmore Community Council | Rathmore Community Feasibility | €8,712 |
| Rockchapel Development Association | Boundary of 3 counties | €11,140 |

LEADER Projects 09/13

| Project Name | Description | € |
|--|--|------------|
| Bween Community Hall Committee | Bweeng Playground | €56,186 |
| Millstreet Community Council Ltd | Millstreet Amenity & Leisure Facility | €75,000 |
| Donoughmore Community Centre Ltd. | Donoughmore Hall | €130,000 |
| Donoughmore Community Centre Ltd. | Donoughmore Community Sportfield Green | €1,987 |
| Millstreet tidy towns Committee | Landscaping in town | €2,246 |
| Kilcorney Community Development | Kilcorney Community Playground | €38,751 |
| Boherbue Grotto Subcommittee | Boherbue Parish Grotto Enhancement | €1,560 |
| Newmarket Community Development | Newmarket Town Park | €46,587 |
| Freemount Community Development | Feasibility Study for Freemount | €5,040 |
| Lyre Community Culture Sport & Leisure | Lyre Village Green Feasibility | €4,230 |
| Rockchapel Community Council | Rockchapel Community Centre | €34,917 |
| Freemount Development Association | Development of Outdoor Gym, Walk and Village Renewal Works | €81,000 |
| Ballydesmond Community Centre Committee | Replacement of windows & doors | €6,457 |
| Foiloighig Development Association | To purchase fingerpost signage, and outdoor notice board and a sign for the building | €1,258 |
| Rathmore Community Council | Rathmore Lighting and Village Renewal | €44,009 |
| Conservation & Upgrading the Rural Heritage | | |
| Centenary Committee Infant Child of Jesus | Research the history of the arrival of Infant Jesus Sisters from France to Drishane and their impact on the locality. Publish book on research and produce DVD. | €59,552 |
| Boherbue Parish Council | To publish book on history of church in Boherbue and Kiskeam | €4,404 |
| JOK Trust | To develop plan for James O' Keffe Institute and Grounds | €30,000 |
| Duhallo Women's Forum | To produce a book in honour of Nora Herlihy's legacy and the Credit Union Movement in Ireland. | €43,301 |
| Kanturk Angling Club | Acquire the expertise to perform investigative monitoring and surveying on the Freshwater Pearl Mussel in the Blackwater and its tributaries | €13,607 |
| Fr. John J. O' Riordan | Publication of book "Kiskeam Versus The Empire" | €1,949 |
| Newmarket Pipe band | Publication of book on history of Pipe Band | €3,163 |
| Inchemay Historical Society | Erection of War of Independence monument | €8,477 |
| Cullen Pipe Band | Development of new band practice hall & purchase of uniforms and equipment | €98,782 |
| Community Development Working Group | Upgrading works to Duhallo Way | €19,644 |
| Kanturk & District Community Council | Refurbishment works to Trade Union Hall | €6,815 |
| Community Development Working Group | Development of Community Websites | €45,000 |
| Ballydesmond development Association | Publication of book "Ballydesmond Rural Parish" | €3,609 |
| Gneeveguilla Community Development Council | Publication of book on History of St Josephs Church Rathmore | €3,730 |
| Duhallo Women's Forum | Erection of Grotto of St. Mary MacKillop | €52,073 |
| Donoughmore Historical Group | Publication of book on history of cemeteries | €6,352 |
| Cumann Luachra, Rathmore | Publication of Sliabh Luachra Journal | €5,700 |
| Kanturk Town Twinning | Publication of book on history of twinning | €2,025 |
| Community Development Working Group | Cork Choral Fringe Festival | €2,625 |
| Kanturk & District Community Council | Publication of book on history of Kanturk | €3,846 |
| Community Development Working Group | Development of Booklet & Information boards on holy wells in Duhallo | €4,506 |
| Castlemagner Historical Society | Erection of memorial plaque to Alasdair MacDonnell | €1,125 |
| Environment Working Group | Education field trips for Bird Watching Group | €3,150 |
| Environment Working Group | Barn Owl Conservation | €4,538 |
| Environment Working Group | Development of environment resource library | €15,000 |
| Environment Working Group | Feasibility into conservation of bog land | €7,470 |
| Community Development Working Group | Information boards on walk from City to Glenflesk | €3,776 |
| Dromtariffe Actively Retired | Publication of historical book | €3,862 |
| Meelins Journey | Publication of historical book | €6,300 |
| Youth & Education Working Group | Folklore project in Sliabh Luachra Primary Schools | €10,806 |
| Castlemagner Historical DVD | Publication of a historical video. | €750 |
| Ballyhass Family Cook Book | Publication of community cook book. | €2,141 |
| Cumann Luachra, Rathmore | Cumann Luachra Equip. | €10,231 |
| Freemount Comhaltas Ceoilteoiri Eireann | Freemount Heritage Centre | €75,638 |
| James O'Keeffe Institute | JOK Meeting Room Refurbish | €52,500 |
| Castlemagner Sinsir | Castlemagner: A Pictorial History | €7,539 |
| Environment Working Group | Conservation of Hedgerows | €5,625 |
| Environment Working Group | Hen Harrier Satellite Tracking Project | €25,781 |
| Kanturk Angling Club | Restoration of Dalua | €30,375 |
| Environment Working Group | Raptor Conservation Project | €23,250 |
| Boherbue Parish Hall Committee | To purchase equipment for Boherbue Parish Hall | €37,127 |
| James O'Keeffe Trust | Preservation of the James O'Keeffe Pantry | €38,497 |
| Saoi Network | Duhallo Bealtaine Festival | €15,000 |
| Kilcorney Community Council | Kilcorney Feis | €1,362 |
| Aubane Social Club | Aubane Old School Centenary Celebration | €4,207 |
| Donoughmore Community Centre Ltd. | Donoughmore Carnival | €5,617 |
| Glash Development Association | Feasibility into the redevelopment of Glash Old School House for the provision of a variety of educational and recreational activities | €30,000 |
| Dr. Mary Joyce Leader | Publication of bilingual children's book. | €4,276 |
| Gneeveguilla National School Board of Management | Gneeveguilla NS Mural | €450 |
| Community Development Working Group | Built Heritage Conservation and Restoration Mentor Panel | €40,000 |
| Kilbrin Community Council | Feasibility into the Restoration of Dr Crokes House Kilbrin | €15,996 |
| Cumann Luachra, Rathmore | Publication of 15th and 16th issue of Sliabh Luachra journal | €9,375 |
| Gerard O'Keeffe | Publication of book 'Termination of the Lethal Injection' | €4,636 |
| Boherbue Development Association | Publication on Boherbue Village | €4,496 |
| Tullylease Community Council | Tullylease Banding Site | €24,172 |
| Training & Information | | |
| Duhallo Choral Society | Training for members of Choral Society | €6,000 |
| Employment & Training Working Group | To deliver a pathways to employment programme for rural dwellers and communities in Duhallo | €11,500 |
| Enterprise Development Working Group | To deliver training workshops to members of the Enterprise Network | €2,550 |
| Employment & Training Working Group | Intermediate Computer Training Course | €5,185 |
| Agriculture Working Group | To deliver counterbalance forklift training to a number of individuals in the Duhallo area. | €4,500 |
| Rockchapel Comhaltas Ceoilteoiri Eireann | To run a master class for young people on traditional Irish music and dance and develop a group who will be in a position to perform and teach Sliabh Luachra music and dance. | €19,870 |
| Enterprise Development Working Group | 6 Customised Basic Bookkeeping & Payroll Courses | €33,384.87 |
| SAOI Network | Memory through Media Training | €57,620 |
| SAOI Network | Third Age training | €6,000 |

LEADER Projects 09/13

| Project Name | Description | € |
|---|---|-------------------|
| Youth & Education Working Group | Arts Education Programme in 30 Primary Schools | €7,000 |
| Community Development Working Group | Purchase of media equipment | €7,925 |
| Enterprise Development Working Group | Mentoring for business | €11,000 |
| Agriculture Working Group | Grow It Yourself (GIY) Training | €3,200 |
| Rural Development Bursaries | Provision of bursaries for the Diploma in Rural development | €9,325 |
| Youth & Education Working Group | Youth Leadership Training | €34,500 |
| Community Development Working Group | Volunteer Training | €9,100 |
| Employment & Training Working Group | Water Meter Installation Training | €31,250 |
| Duhallow Women's Forum | Personal development Training | €3,635 |
| Employment & Training Working Group | Computer Applications Training | €8,430 |
| Employment & Training Working Group | ICT, Internet & Email Training | €11,100 |
| Employment & Training Working Group | Microsoft Word Training | €5,910 |
| Employment & Training Working Group | Saor TV, Freeview and Digital TV installation Training | €18,830 |
| Enterprise Development Working Group | Training on eco tourism principles and policies. | €45,349 |
| Enterprise Development Working Group | One to one mentoring for new and existing enterprises. | €51,171 |
| Employment & Training Working Group | Employment Planning & Opp Prog | €21,882 |
| Employment & Training Working Group | Accounts Administration Training | €10,020 |
| SAOI Network | Reminiscence Training | €2,055 |
| SAOI Network | Third Age life long learning | €4,055 |
| SAOI Network | ICT & Photography | €5,518 |
| Community Development Working Group | Built Heritage training Prog | €48,400 |
| Environment Working Group | Duhallow Environment Programme | €7,130 |
| Employment & Training Working Group | Furniture Restoration & Upholstery Training | €18,453 |
| Employment & Training Working Group | Furniture Restoration & Upholstery Equip. | €3,490 |
| Environment Working Group | Waste, water & Energy Training Prog. | €4,570 |
| Environment Working Group | Eco Seminar | €2,000 |
| SAOI Network | Reminiscence Training for Leaders | €2,055 |
| Enterprise Development Working Group | Training in marketing an enterprise through social media and online forums. | €4,310 |
| Enterprise Development Working Group | Training in the fundamentals of commencing a business. | €5,260 |
| Duhallow Women's Forum | Personal Development Training | €4,620 |
| Community Development Working Group | Folklore & Oral History Training | €4,620 |
| Community Development Working Group | Duhallow Historic Graves | €5,810 |
| Employment & Training Working Group | Financial Accounts Training | €7,520 |
| Teresa Collins | Diploma in Rural Development by Distance Learning Bursary | €3,280 |
| Marie Fleming | BSc Degree in Rural Development by Distance Learning Bursary | €6,490 |
| Yvonne Brosnan | Diploma in Rural Development by Distance Learning Bursary | €3,280 |
| Community Development Working Group | Oral Heritage Studies Training Programme | €11,400 |
| Community Development Working Group | Delivery of an overall training programme in History of Family and Genealogical Research Methods. | €16,860 |
| Enterprise Development Working Group | Delivery of Hill Walking Leader Training Programme | €8,000 |
| Encouragement of Tourism Activities | | |
| Ballyhass Lakes | Construction of a new store and utility building and purchase of equipment for activity centre | €43,105 |
| Kanturk & District Community Council | Produce & Print Walking Guides of Kanturk | €2,000 |
| Kanturk Cycling Club | Development of off road cycle track | €149,863 |
| Enterprise Development Working Group | Shell Scheme for craft fair | €25,111 |
| Community Development Working Group | Wildlife panels and benches on Blackwater Way | €8,250 |
| Donoughmore Community Centre Ltd. | Development of walk in Donoughmore | €41,349 |
| Freemount Development Association | Revival of Freemount Festival | €4,583 |
| Community Development Working Group | Feasibility Newmarket Pitch & Putt Course | €9,000 |
| Millstreet Development Assoc. | Clara Mountain Cross | €3,953 |
| Freemount Macra na Feirme | Freemount Macra Festival | €6,637 |
| Millstreet Country Park Ltd. | Development of Marketing Strategy | €20,160 |
| Maritime Tourism Ltd. trading as Ballyhass Lakes. | Ballyhass Lakes Activity Equip. | €43,771 |
| Rockchapel Comhaltas Ceoilteoiri Eireann | To redevelop and extend bruach na carraig with the inclusion of a new stage | €49,308 |
| Millstreet Horses Ltd. | Stables and Arena Fences for Green Glens. | €150,000 |
| Community Development Working Group | Design and production of Duhallow Walking Guides | €3,534 |
| Enterprise Development Working Group | Feasibility study into the development of a loop walk around the paps. | €30,000 |
| Kanturk and District Anglers | Angling Centre Of Excellence | €117,750 |
| Newmarket District & Agricultural Show | Funding of materials for Newmarket & District Agricultural Show | €5,351 |
| Banteer Community Sportsfield Ltd. | To develop car park and outdoor gym | €26,576 |
| Conrad Jones | Feasibility study into developing an eco pod campsite. | €3,602 |
| Kilcorney Angling and Leisure Group. | Development of a walk. | €37,448 |
| Meelin Community Centre Committee | Meelin Community Festival | €6,690 |
| Co-operation projects | | |
| Agriculture Working Group | Training for rural abattoirs | €8,500 |
| Agriculture Working Group | Food stand at National ploughing championships | €600 |
| Enterprise Development Working Group | Young Entrepreneurial Programme for 5 secondary schools in Duhallow | €49,385 |
| SAOI Network | Memory through Media Transnational project | €60,000 |
| Youth & Education Working Group | Secret Musical festival | €50,000 |
| LEADER Village Initiative Steering Committee | LEADER Village Initiative | €3,000 |
| LEADER Small Food Programme Steering Committee | Small Food Programme | €5,000 |
| All Kerry tourism | Development of tourism website | €10,000 |
| Kerry Graveyards Steering Committee | Digitizing of graveyards in Kerry | €1,000 |
| Community Development Working Group | Day of the Regions Festival | €60,000 |
| TO Steering Committee | To conduct an evaluation of the Towards Occupation Initiative | €2,700 |
| Economic Development Steering Group | Tech. Study Economic Dev. Kerry/Duhallow | €30,000 |
| Skills Acquisition & Animation | | |
| Entrepreneur Animation Prog. | Animation of new start up business idea generation. | €50,000 |
| Enterprise Development Working Group | Angling Centre Of Excellence Animator | €3,000 |
| Community Development Working Group | Built Heitage Mentor Panel | €20,000 |
| Annex 1 | | |
| Cronin's Rural Abattoir | Upgrading of Abattoir Facilities | €10,488 |
| Total | | €6,579,105 |

Local Community Development Programme

IRD Duhallow completed a three year strategic plan for the Local and Community Development Programme (LCDP) in early 2011. This included a lengthy and comprehensive consultation process with all of our communities, through a series of community meetings, the community fora, our working groups and public consultation meetings specifically on the requirements of the plan. This process informed the plan which has given us the mandate to design and roll-out a locally relevant LCDP programme in Duhallow for the three years concerned. In addition, we are required to submit an annual plan to Pobal each year, which must also go to the Cork County Development Board for its approval.

The new Local Community Development Programme, with its emphasis steering away from social inclusion and on to unemployment and jobs has been under pressure with budget cuts while the level of reporting and paperwork increases.

The LCDP Programme services the most disadvantaged in our society. The previous programme, the Local Development Social Inclusion Programme, focused on supporting people with mental ill health, children with learning difficulties, asylum seekers and foreign nationals, the long term unemployed, low income small-holders and disadvantaged communities. With the onset of the recession and jobs being the priority of Government and indeed the media, the LCDP Programme has metamorphosed into a programme mainly about jobs and returning to work, with the social inclusion emphasis dropped from the name. However, the Celtic tiger never really reached rural areas like Duhallow and the problems we face are similar to the ones that have always been evident in this predominately rural area.



Hanna Kelleher receiving a presentation to mark her retirement from the Board.



A good crowd attended the "Redesigning your home on a budget" in IRD Duhallow.

Long term unemployment in the region is often compounded with mental ill health, a problem the Department of Social Protection has identified as needing interventions through the Towards Occupation Programme. Sheltered employment opportunities are provided through the Community Services Programme (CSP) in the three Community Enterprise Projects, however IRD Duhallow could provide another 20 part-time CSP funded jobs through the furniture revamp project.



Tús Scheme Participant Denis O'Flynn sanding down a kitchen chair which was donated for Duhallow Revamp.

Duhallow is heavily dependent on agriculture, and many of our farmers are low-income smallholders. LDSIP and more recently LCDP has been pivotal in leveraging funding from other programmes for specific target groups, such as Equality for Women, RSS for low-income farmers, TO for those with mental health issues, Tús for the long term unemployed. Duhallow does not have a State funded Jobs Club or Local

Employment Service. We are determined to meet the needs of the unemployed, who should be able to access these supports locally, through our Job Centre which we operate and fund as part of our administration and LCDP.



A large group of Duhallow farmers attend a seminar on Herd Health.

The Bereavement Support and Domestic Violence Services are delivered through Goal 1 which is limited to 10% of the budget. Our monthly newsletter, a key mechanism for informing the people of Duhallow of the supports available to them is also funded under the same 10% cap. Goals 2 and 3 focus on training and job creation and together hold 80% of the budget. Supports for children with learning difficulties, people with mental ill health, low income farmers, small business start ups and our Job Centre are funded under these goals



Participants of the Upcycling Recycling Course reinvent their old clothes with new trends.

also. Goal 4 supports networks including the Carers Group, Women's Forum, people with disabilities, older people and lone parents and this goal is also limited to just 10% of the budget also. As our Chairman rightly points out in his address at the beginning of this report, the reason we have been able to meet increasing demands with reducing budgets is because of increased community involvement and the increased commitment of our staff. On a positive note he has also signalled the opportunity of Community Led Local Development (CLLD) and the possibilities that could arise post 2014 when European Social Funds could be provided directly through groups like IRD Duhallow.

The programme has made a significant contribution to the lives of the people who avail of it. LCDP is key in supporting the target groups we have identified, and while the funding is small in monetary terms, the benefits and importance of this programme cannot be underestimated.



"That's Auntie Derval!" says little Orla McEnaney when she visited the IRD Duhallow stand in the LEADER Village at the ploughing with her mom Cora.



At the launch of Common Purpose Innovative Active Citizen Work students are, President Mary McAleese, Maura Walsh IRD Duhallow, Oisín O'Callaghan, Scoil Phobail Sliabh Luachra, Rob O'Halloran and Jackie Butler Common Purpose.

Local Community Development Programme

Funds Committed to Projects to December 2011

| Goal | Project Name | Description | Committed |
|--|--|--|--|
| Goal 1: To promote awareness, knowledge & uptake of wide range of statutory, voluntary & community services | Information Dissemination | IRD Monthly Newsletter | €8,000.00 |
| | IRD Duhallow Bereavement Support Group Mental Health Promotion | Facilitate a Public Seminar on Bereavement & Loss Safe Talk & I ASIST Training for Suicide awareness & intervention East Kerry Mental Health - Publishing poetry & sketch New Brochures | €959.75 €930.01 €500.00 €1,228.70 |
| Goal 2: Increase access to formal & informal education, recreation and cultural activities & resources | Adult & Second Chance | BA of Sociology & Psychology Bursary for Aidan Flanagan Two day training in casting & moulding for Michaela Nell BA Hons in Counselling, Psychotherapy & Psychometric Testing Bursary for Teddie Drumm BA Hons in Counselling, Psychotherapy Bursary for Josephine Keohane CAP 2 Auditing & Assurance Exam/CAP 2 Strategic Finance & Mngt. Accounting Bursary for Batt Curtin Batchelor of Science Hons in Building Surveying Bursary for Brendan Lyons Batchelor of Arts Hons in Multimedia Bursary for Jason O'Sullivan BA in Early Childhood Studies & Practice Bursary for Jacqueline Gilligan BA Hons in Fine Art/Ceramic Design Level 8 Bursary for Mary O'Connor One Year Taught Masters in Sociology Bursary for Aidan Flanagan One year training at Sean Taffe Private Hairdressing College for Marie O'Keeffe | €500.00 €343.00 €500.00 €1,500.00 €200.00 €600.00 €600.00 €600.00 €600.00 €300.00 €600.00 |
| | Duhallow Women's Forum | Womens Dressmaking Group Public Info Meeting "Making a Will" Public Info Seminar (Alzheimers & Stroke) Youth Leadership & Team Outdoor Challenge Equipment & Training Purchase One set of Team wear Purchase new equipment for the club Careers/Employment Exhibition 2011 Dyslexia Info Night focussing on Resources Available Dyslexia & Literacy support workshops Monthly Advisory Clinic for Parents re: Literacy Literacy support for Primary School Children Literacy Support Group trip to CIT to learn about Resources available Literacy support Awards Night Touch/Type/Read/Spell Classes including Licence Afterschools Homework Support for Colaiste Treasa Afterschools Homework Support for St. Lachteens Afterschools Homework Support for Scoil Mhuire Kanturk Afterschools Homework Support for Boherbue Comprehensive Afterschools Homework Support for Rathmore Scoil Phobail Sliabh Luachra Afterschools Assisted Study for Millstreet Youth Club To organise a Public Speaking Competition for Schools in Duhallow to participate Drive Safe for Life Programme, to raise awareness in Students of Road Safety Laugh and Learn Summer Camps IT Support Summer Camp Sliabh Luachra Summer Camp English Language Tuition to new communities & Migrant Multicultural Christmas Event (Kanturk-Millstreet) | €1,190.01 €310.70 €320.00 €500.00 €436.20 €461.00 €637.00 €354.00 €129.01 €2,751.80 €1,252.95 €2,627.10 €183.00 €387.87 €3,112.50 €4,881.84 €2,586.00 €2,370.00 €2,155.00 €1,927.00 €639.00 €630.00 €395.00 €1,680.00 €235.00 €500.00 €220.00 €855.00 |
| | Banteer Youth Club Duhallow Boxing Club Kanturk Basketball Club Gneeveguilla Basketball Club Youth & Education Working Group | Kitchen Equipment Safe Cycling Workshop Cork Volunteer Centre Kerry Volunteer Centre Care & Repair | €1,209.00 €500.00 €3,930.00 €690.00 €538.12 |
| | Rockchapel Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann Asylum Seekers & Migrant Workers | | |
| | Cullen Special Needs Assoc. Shrone N.S. Supporting Volunteerism | | |
| | | | |
| Goal 3: Increase in people work readiness and employment prospects | Employment & Training Working Group | Effective Job Search Strategies Workshops Interview Skills Workshops Adult & Second Chance Graduation Introduction to Computers Training Course Renewal of Pathfinder & HE Licence Seven Week Internet & Email Training Course Occupational First Aid Training Computer Training Courses for beginners Horticultural Material for Polytunnel for Towards Occupation/Afterschools/ Grow It Yourself Participants IRD Polytunnel Towards Occupation Program Business Planning Workshop for potential start ups among target groups Seminar on Cloud Computing for the Enterprise Network Seminar on Marketing Through Social Media for Enterprise Network Craft Fair 2011 Maximising Farm Efficiencies Development of an Apiary Bee Keeping training for Beginners Farmers Market EFEIRM (internet training for farmers) GIY Harvest Festival Women in Agri Conference Herd Health Information Seminar Funded promotional material for the ATV Stripgrazer Training and purchasing of equipment for Banteer Therapy Clinic Funded production, purchase of new packaging material & brochures Magnetic signage to create a greater awareness of the Rural Transport Programme | €2,001.30 €2,001.30 €584.36 €413.00 €308.40 €468.00 €4,309.20 €234.40 €605.65 €166.79 €5,596.60 €446.03 €322.00 €670.00 €1,625.00 €18,297.07 €894.45 €308.75 €712.13 €873.60 €255.00 €1,140.75 €120.00 €801.00 €700.00 €2,159.00 €3,636.00 |
| | Towards Occupation | | |
| | Enterprise Development Working Group | | |
| | Agriculture Working Group | | |
| | A. J. O'Connor & Kieran Herlihy Celine Geffroy Duhallow Community Food Services Duhallow Area Rural Transport | | |
| | | | |
| Goal 4: Promote engagement with policy, practice and decision making processes on matters affecting local communities | Lone Parents Duhallow Carers Group | Parenting Alone Training Duhallow Carers meetings Cookery Skills for Duhallow Carers group Eurocarers/Care Alliance Carers Massage Night Coffee Morning for Carers' Week Issuing of flyers for Carers Support Group Duhallow Carers Summer Excursion Events for Environmental Awareness Month Dawn Chorus Bird Watch Group Development and printing of Gorse Fire Information Leaflets Info seminar on Barn Owl Conservation Information Seminar on the Golden Eagle Alzheimer's Tea Morning Representation at the European Youth Parliament, Istanbul Personal Development Programme to the Men's Forum in Castlemagner Bealtaine Festival SAOI Meetings Purchase IT Equipment for a media training project for the SAOI network Basic Sign Language Classes | €970.45 €39.85 €255.00 €275.00 €168.00 €82.69 €110.00 €270.00 €953.20 €162.00 €149.12 €485.10 €355.00 €150.00 €115.00 €548.00 €300.00 €718.31 €116.25 €2,435.73 €735.00 |
| | Enviromental Forum | | |
| | Community Development Working Group Youth & Education Working Group Castlemagner Sinsir Club Empowerment of Older People | | |
| | Empowerment on People with Disabilities | | |
| Total | | | €117,599.04 |

Duhallow Carers Group

Approximately 18 percent of Duhallow's population are aged 65 years and older compared to the National average of 11 percent. In a region with such an elderly and ageing population, the role of family and voluntary carers is vital. However, these people need support, many come from different backgrounds and professions, and have no previous experience of caring. Duhallow Carers Group plays a huge role in the lives of these people, offering peer support, advice, guidance and training. Duhallow Carers Group has 100 members.

'Through the Duhallow Carers Group we can let off steam in a safe, non-judgemental environment among people who understand'

Dormant Accounts

IRD Duhallow successfully applied for and attained grant aid under the Dormant Accounts Fund to train family and voluntary carers. The programme finished in December of 2011 and carers throughout Duhallow took part in 14 different courses and training seminars. The last of these included:

Care of the Elderly; which was a series of 8 information seminars dealing with topics on caring for an older person, and subjects covered ranged from hygiene, infection prevention and control, to coping with Alzheimer's and dementia.



Graduates of the Care in the Home Training Programme which was accredited by City and Guilds and funded by Dormant Accounts.

Child Nutrition; was a one day information seminar for parents caring for a child with special needs, the session focused on what are the right foods and dietary requirements that a parent should be conscious of when caring for a child with special needs.

Adult Nutrition; Many carers experience immense stress and a huge burden is placed on them when caring. As a result carers need to be conscious of their own health, blood pressure and weight levels. The seminar was given by nutritionist Niamh O'Connor focused on the healthy eating in a practical way.

Dormant Accounts Evaluation

Part of the dormant accounts funding was the requirement to carry out an independent evaluation of the implementation on the programme. The evaluation was carried out by Dr. Brendan O'Keeffe (MIC) and Dr. Caroline Crowley (UCC) who concluded the programme to have been a success with a marked noted improvement in the confidence and competence of family and voluntary carers throughout Duhallow. The evaluation team also noted the considerable potential for the group going forward in the area of advocacy and links with other carer groups.



Kay O'Sullivan and Sylvain Geoffrey demonstrating relaxation techniques by the Angel Holistic Therapy Clinic.

Information Dissemination

Each quarter the Duhallow Carers Group produces a newsletter on the group's activities and upcoming events, which is distributed to the 110 group members. Information flyers were also produced during 2011 on the Carers Group informing people about the group and inviting all to attend the monthly meetings.



Josephine Collins who cares for her son Paul.

Social

Caring can be a lonely world. Family and Voluntary carers can spend most of the day with the person they are caring for and these people often cannot hold a conversation and many are not even conscious of their surroundings. The workload and stress of being a carer tends to be unseen and is often both underestimated and unacknowledged by society, even among those close to carers. Therefore, the social and peer support aspect to the carers group is extremely important for all the group members, as typically carers are more vulnerable and susceptible to poor mental health due to social isolation and the stress of caring duties.



The Duhallow Carers Coffee Morning was held in Kanturk Farmers Market during Carers Week to raise awareness of issues and services.

The Duhallow Carers Group with the support of LCDP funding, organise relaxation and down time for carers promoting social interaction and inclusion. Highlights include the Annual Summer Excursion, the Carers Christmas Party, the Summer BBQ and the Carers Mass. Carers are also encouraged to engage with relaxation techniques and in April 2012 a seminar was held with the Angel Holistic Centre in Kanturk on meditation and holistic therapies. Communication and contact with others is also extremely important, and with the age of modern media, the Duhallow Carers Group in association with 'Caring for Carers' organised a training programme on internet and email. Modules included how to carry out practical transactions online, and to send and receive an email.



The Duhallow Carers Group who participated in a Computer Course run in association with Caring for Carers.

Equality, Disability & Migrants

Equality, Disability and Migrant

The Equality Working Group continues to develop initiatives that have relevance, promote inter-culturalism, tolerance and respect for all in our society. It has undertaken awareness raising events, supported initiatives to promote equality and importantly focused on bringing people together to create an understanding of equality, diversity and rights and entitlements. The Working Group was particularly heartened by the measures introduced to increase participation of women in politics, with a commitment to equality and fairness in our society and passing of the Civil Partnership Bill in 2011 which provides legal recognition for same sex couples in Ireland. It is the aim of the Working Group to continue its efforts to embrace diversity and encourage individual skills and ambitions.



Information seminar on the Changes to the State Pension. Advice and information was given on the night by Collette Vaughan Department of Social Protection.

Promotion of Integration

Ireland faces ongoing economic and social challenges, including rising unemployment and falling incomes. Recent reports show that our immigrant community is far from immune. Integration programmes were never more badly needed, however funding has been cut from the office of the Minister for Integration, which had been successfully rolled out by the Department of Community and Enterprise in Kerry County Council. As a result of this funding received IRD Duhallow supported a Social Centre in Rathmore. This centre provided a space for people of different backgrounds and nationalities to discuss their own interests and share experiences and promote integration. Through the Local Community Development Programme IRD Duhallow will continue to address issues but at a scaled back rate.

A number of initiatives have been organised over the last twelve months including a successful Intercultural Food and Music Event. Over a hundred people attended this event with the aim of encouraging participation and involvement of a number of nationalities through the celebration of food and music. On the night there were a number of performances including poem recitals, presentation of different cultural songs, as well as Irish dance and music. Additionally many people brought a taste of their ethnic cultural food which gave the opportunity to savour the diversity that exists. Importantly this night provided the occasion for participants of previous English Language Training to receive their Certificates and deservedly everyone was proud of their achievement.



Nateel along with Halima Usman and Milad enjoying the Intercultural Food and Music evening at Rathmore.



At a Multi-Cultural event in Millstreet, Santa and Mrs. Claus with Mother and daughter Mbali Nzimande and Sisanda Bakari from South Africa

Social Centre Meetings

As a result of funding received from the Office of the Minister of Integration through Kerry County Council, IRD Duhallow supported a Social Centre in Rathmore. This Social Centre provided a space for people of different backgrounds and nationalities to discuss their own interests and share

experiences. An enjoyable meeting took place in October which provided a Social Night for adults to come together, socialise and enjoy each other's company and experiences.

Multi-Cultural Events

Participation in multi-cultural events helps to promote equality, diversity and ensure that cultural diversity is acknowledged, embraced and celebrated. IRD Duhallow continues to invest in a series of events at Christmas time aiming to increase participation by ethnic minorities in community events. The events were held in Rathmore, Kanturk and Millstreet and were enjoyed by hundreds of adults and children who along with the local community, celebrated in their own way, Christmas and the advent of Santa Claus.



Allan Cuthbert Financial Planner with Michael Doyle & Pat Casey Equality Working Group.



Phil Prendergast MEP & Linda Murphy on our TO Prog.

Disability

The Equality Working Group aims to achieve the inclusion of people with disabilities, it is apparent that these times are hard for people with disabilities and their families due to the ongoing cutbacks being experienced because of the downturn in the economy. The provision of information that is current and relevant was a particular aim of the recent Information Seminar on "Budget 2012 Impacts on Disability & Broader Community". This seminar was facilitated by Allan Cuthbert of Financial Wellbeing. It was clear by the turnout that people are aware that information is key and that with proper information people can make informed choices.

Another course where demand continues to exceed provision is our Basic Sign Language Training. This course is very popular in the area with long waiting lists. IRD Duhallow recognises that the right to use one's own language is an important issue. ISL is the main sign language in Ireland with over 5,000 Deaf native ISL users. The Equality Working Group organised a seven week course for 16 participants and continues to recognise that this is an important programme to run where possible.



Theresa McLoughlin, Helen Guiney and Tom Walsh practicing their Sign Language at the recent training course in Basic Sign Language.



Mary Mc Hugh with participants who were delighted and proud to accept their Certificate in Basic Sign Language.

The Working Group has also taken the time to ensure that people with disabilities know that sport is for everyone and therefore arranged a demonstration with the assistance of Aisling O'Drea from Cork Sports Partnership. In 2010 IRD Duhallow's LCDP grant-aided Boccia Equipment and the Working Group aim to use this equipment as much as possible to create awareness about the sport with the main feature being that it is inclusive for everyone to enjoy.



At the Kanturk Farmers Market where locals supported the 'Self Help Africa Coffee Morning

Employment & Training

Employment and Training

IRD Duhallow through the Employment and Training Working Group is seeking to enhance employment outcomes by better matching skills supply to demand, improving training provision and addressing skills gaps. The census data for Duhallow shows that the rate of male unemployment is three times the national average, while the rate of female unemployment recorded is eight times the national average. The high rates of unemployment, associated with low levels of education attainment and lone parenthood clearly demonstrate the need for integrated community development, up-skilling, training and enterprise creation and support actions.

The Employment and Training Working Group consists of representatives from FAS, DSP, VEC, MABS, TEAGASC, SIPTU and Third Level Institutions. It recognises that it is important that tomorrow's workforce is equipped with high - level generic skills, so that individuals can transfer between sectors, and innovate in response to changing markets. This requires strong investment in flexible systems of "life long learning" so that people can build their skills throughout their lives. In response to this during the past year the Working Group has invested in Life Long Learning opportunities which are outlined below.



IRD Duhallow continues to offer Work Placement for Students at Third Level. This year saw four students in placement including Peter O' Mahony, Eoin Murphy, Marian Browne and Claire Metayer.

higher education such as poor broadband and communications infrastructure, the cost and infrequency of public transport, lack of outreach centres in rural areas and of course the financial constraints that people now face. In the last year, 8 people from our target group have received a bursary through Adult and Second Chance Education. The availability of these bursaries has allowed these individuals to continue their education and become trained in various disciplines from Accountancy to Multimedia to Early Childhood Studies.



Mike Holden tutor of the Eco Home: Waste, Water and Energy Conservation Training course provides Teresa Collins and Michelle Kelleher with key initiatives on how to reduce energy usage.

grow and unemployment rates continue to rise it can be seen that employers may be reluctant to hire those who have not worked for a long time preferring to take those with higher skills and with proven work experience. IRD Duhallow has sought to address the skill levels of those seeking employment through funding received from the Local Community Employment Programme and LEADER 2007 - 2013.

Adult and Second Chance Education Bursaries

IRD Duhallow is cognisant that the contribution which education can make to social and economic change and to enhancing the everyday lives of adults cannot be overstated. It is clear that rural dwellers face many barriers when trying access to

Training Measures - Employment and Skills Development

Many factors put people at risk of long term unemployment, with the economic crisis in full force the difficulties that the long term unemployed face when trying to enter the job market continue to rise. As competition for jobs

Water Meter Installation Training

A part of The National Recovery Plan 2011-2014 water meters will be in place by 2014 and water charges will be introduced. Therefore, IRD Duhallow delivered two courses for non plumbers in Water Meter Installation Training and one course for qualified plumbers in this area. There was a very high demand for such training to take place with over a hundred applicants interested participating. 40 individuals participated, among them Tús participants, who progressed to receive ERS Certification.



Sean McBride trainer demonstrating to participants on the Water Meter Installation Training Programme.



Members of the Water Meter Installation Training come together to receive their Certificates.

Saor TV, Freeview & Digital TV Installation

In January, IRD Duhallow trained 20 individuals to become certified in Saor TV, Freeview & Digital TV Installation. Ireland is now in the process of entering National free to air Digital Broadcasting. At the time the training took place there were at least a quarter of a million households that were still reliant on the analogue service. This analogue TV Network is to be switched off in October and these participants are in a position to install the new boxes.



20 Individuals were trained in Saor TV, Freeview & Digital TV Installation Training.

Microsoft Word Training

The Employment and Training Working Group has recognised the importance of Information Communications Technology Training. The use of computers has become both a large part of our everyday lives and importantly our professional lives. It is important that people who are not computer literate are not left behind by the digital divide that continues to manifest. Many older people and those in areas where broadband is a relatively recent service, have family members living outside the region and it is imperative that they learn ICT to remain in contact. Additionally the opportunity for individuals to enhance their skills, capabilities and knowledge in this area is critical to improving employability opportunities; therefore IRD Duhallow organised both a high level Microsoft Word training course and also a number of Basic Computer and Internet and Email Training courses. These courses continue to attract a strong interest and demand is ongoing. Over the last year seventy people have been trained in this area.

Employment & Training



Members who completed the Microsoft Word Training Course receive their Certificates at the Recognition of Learning Ceremony.

Occupational First Aid & Infection Prevention and Control

Under the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Regulations 2007, there is a requirement on employers based on risk assessment to have a sufficient number of Occupational First Aiders trained and deployed in the workforce. Through the provision of this training to 20 people, it had a twofold effect to enable individuals seeking employment to upskill and receive a FETAC approved accreditation and also for business owners to fulfil their legal obligation.

IRD Duhallow delivered an Infection Prevention and Control Training Course. It has been identified that new minimum standards for the provision of home care are being introduced. Therefore individuals have to show that they are meeting new training standards and vetting procedures.



Margaret Mullane tutor of the FETAC Level Five Occupational First Aid course offering direction to participants on the training programme on CPR.

Upskilling and life long learning is seen as essential and through the provision of this training, 16 individuals from the Duhallow area are improving their prospects.

Recognition of Learning Ceremony

It is important that participants who have taken part in the wide array of training through

IRD Duhallow are given the opportunity to recognise the training that they have received and also to be formally presented with their certificates. In March over 140 people attended the Recognition of Learning Ceremony in the James O' Keffe Institute where Certificates were awarded in courses across-the-board including Computer Training, Water Meter Installation, Carers Courses, Upcycling/Recycling to Personal Development Training.



16 individuals taking part in accredited training in Infection Prevention and Control.



Members who previously completed training in Manual and Computerised Bookkeeping and Payroll receiving their Certificates along with Chairperson of the Employment and Training Working Group John Kirwan.

Job Centre

Duhallow, unlike most local development companies, for historic reasons does not have a Local Employment Service or DSP funded jobs club. Therefore IRD Duhallow set up the Job Centre to meet the needs of people in Duhallow who need assistance seeking employment and also for employers who need support in advertising employment positions. People who are unemployed come from diverse backgrounds and have different needs. As such there is no "one size fits all" therefore through the Job Centre the Working Group aims to offer a number of supports and interventions. These supports include Job Placement, Career Advice, and assistance with writing your CV or Cover letter, Interview Preparation and the provision of



Participants on the Internet and Email Training Course get ready for their seven week training programme.



Students Brid O'Riordan and Brigid Ide Walsh on summer placement at Newmarket Afterschool.

"Pathfinder". Pathfinder is a tool that when used can help individuals assess what options are available in terms of Career Interests, Job Matching and information concerning training supports. Job-seeking Workshops and Interview preparation Workshops continue to be an important mechanism to assist people effectively search for and gain employment.



Participants of recently held workshops get an insight into Interview Preparation.

Mental Health and Towards Occupation



Minister Pat Rabbitt meets TO Participant John Fitzgerald who is busy at work in the Polytunnel located on the grounds of the James O'Keeffe Institute, Newmarket.

Advocating Mental Wealth

Mental ill health ranges from the worries we all experience as part of everyday life to serious long-term conditions. The majority of people who experience mental ill health can and do recover, especially if they get help. Mental health can change as you move through different life stages or in response to difficulties in your life. Although an estimated one in four individuals are likely to experience a mental health problem at some point in their lives, it remains a widespread taboo subject. On the one hand the media displays a growing positive interest in mental health, but sensational reporting of events involving people with a mental illness continues. Communities with high levels of awareness on mental health issues are essential to bring about change. IRD Duhallow's Equality working group recognises that empowerment lies through the provision of information, training and occupancy in an accessible manner.



Michael Doyle, Chairperson of IRD Duhallow's Equality Working Group and Triona Murphy, IRD Duhallow with TO graduates 2010-2011 at the Recognition of Learning Ceremony.



Dan Joe Twomey and John Browne, TO Participants tend to their vegetable patch during the Horticulture classes on Friday mornings.

Towards Occupation Initiative

The Towards Occupation (TO) Initiative is dedicated to enabling those distanced from the labour market as a result of mental ill health to develop the skills and confidence to move into employment, education, training, voluntary work or other directions. The part time recovery orientated initiative works to improve the health and well being of people with mental illness by creating opportunities for progression towards independence, encouraging healthier lifestyles and widening social networks. Participants are assisted to identify and develop their employment and educational goals in a positive, flexible and supportive environment including skills training, employment planning, support and follow-up services. Specifically targeting those feeling isolated, lacking confidence and out of work for a long time for whatever reason, the initiative allows participants interact with others who are encountering similar situations and dealing with similar issues. This year participants undertook a suite of different training including: furniture recycling, upholstery and sewing, horticulture, basic IT and cookery. The initiative is delivered by IRD Duhallow and its counterparts across Limerick and North Cork. The Department of Social Protection provides funding and it is also supported through the Local Community Development Programme.



Christine Campbell, TO Participant presents Minister Sherlock with a box of her home produced fresh eggs.

Duhallow Revamp

Everyone has a right to the opportunity of participating in work both to fulfil their own potential and to make a contribution to society as a whole. For people with mental health difficulties, this opportunity can be severely limited. IRD Duhallow is in the process of establishing Duhallow Revamp, furniture recycling and reuse community enterprise. Duhallow Revamp will provide training and employment opportunities in furniture repair and reuse, primarily for individuals with mental ill health and in turn supply furniture, curtains and other small household items to the elderly and low income households in the Duhallow area. The Duhallow Revamp will offer these individuals the dignity of work and a role in improving their access to services. Promoting 'reuse', unwanted donated furniture will be utilised



therefore reducing the volume of waste and assisting local authorities to meet recycling targets. The benefits to the state are obvious in terms of reducing state expenditure on health services while providing essential services in a cost effective way.

TO Participants Tim Galvin and Denis Lane restoring a hall stand for the TO Programme

Mental Health and Towards Occupation

Grundtvig

IRD Duhallow secured funding from Léargas through the Life Long Learning Programme, Grundtvig to operate a transnational project entitled "Food is Garden Edible" which includes four other European Partners: Slovenia, Hungary, Germany and the UK. The aim of the project is to learn and experience how individuals and community groups are motivated by growing their own food and to learn from other countries experiences. IRD Duhallow's project focuses on the therapeutic value of growing your own food. Horticultural therapy is an emerging field of clinical practice based on proven benefits to the physical, mental and emotional wellbeing that accrues from gardening as a healing or therapeutic process. Three members of the TO programme visited Schwerin in Northern Germany where they saw Hof Medewege, an eco-village of 60 inhabitants, with many different sectors representing the whole "from the field to the table" food chain.



Teresa Collins, TO Participant during her Grundtvig Study Visit to Schwerin in Northern Germany.

Bereavement & Loss Support

IRD Duhallow's Bereavement and Loss Support consists of 14 trained volunteers who meet people on a one to one basis. There is no limit on the number of sessions a person can avail of and it is completely free.



Mary McHugh, IRD Duhallow with students from Scoil Phobail Sliabh Luachra, Rathmore who completed the Peer Support Education Programme.

I ASIST & SAFETALK

With research showing that more people die from suicide than by road traffic accidents annually in Ireland, Terence Casey, Coroner for South Kerry earlier this year highlighted the growing number of suicides among older men in rural areas. The closure of post offices, shops and creameries as well as the new drink driving laws and cuts to the rural transport programme have been highlighted as a major contributing factor as they have resulted in less social contact and a greater risk of social and rural isolation. IRD Duhallow is working to establish a support group for families bereaved through suicide in conjunction with Console and the HSE South. The I ASIST and Safetalk workshops has been facilitated through our Local Community

Development Programme in Duhallow for the 6th year with 40 people trained in the last 12 month, and 135 people trained since 2006. The HSE delivers the training which is tailored to provide participants with the necessary skills to identify when and how to effectively intervene when a person is at risk of suicide.

Peer Support Education Programme

The Peer Support Education Programme is a community based suicide awareness programme specifically designed to address the needs of young people so that they might help other people who are in some difficulty or crisis. Three of IRD Duhallow's Development Officers have received training in the delivery of the programme from the HSE, and they roll it out to senior secondary school students through the Local Community Development Programme.



Community Garda John Crowley, TD Michael Moynihan, TD Aine Collins, Inspector Tony Sugrue at the launch of the Duhallow Dial to Stop Drug Dealing Campaign with Triona Murphy IRD Duhallow.

Drug and Alcohol Misuse Awareness

IRD Duhallow in conjunction with the Gardai and the Southern Regional Drugs Task Force ran a dial to stop drug dealing campaign in December 2011. People were encouraged to use the low call number to report incidents of drug dealing in their areas. Fliers, Posters and business cards were sent out to all communities and the local community Garda visited all the schools. IRD Duhallow also facilitated a 2 day training programme entitled "Putting the Pieces Together" to a wide range of people working with young people including: Gardai, Youth Club Leaders, Teachers, Sporting Organisations and Community Reps etc. This two day training was delivered by the Southern Regional Drugs Task Force and provided participants with a re-energized approach around drugs and alcohol education.



Irene Mulcahy, YMCA Ireland taking participants through the "Putting the Pieces Together" manual: a resource for trainers delivering drug and alcohol education.

Tourism

IRD Duhallow's tourism strategy has focused on our greatest assets – our environment and activity holidays including walking, angling, equine tourism, cycling and our unique culture and heritage, the Sliabh Luachra traditions of music, song and dance.

Eco Tourism Training

Our Strategic plan has prioritised a number of areas as being ideal for the development of Ecotourism. In Duhallow as part of this strategy, we are currently running an eco tourism training programme which is being delivered by the acclaimed Mary Mulvey. The course covers 5 modules: Ecotourism Principles, product development, business principles, one to one training supports in applying the concepts of ecotourism to participant's own business and participant mentoring. The target for each course participant is to achieve the recognised EU flower certification in operating an 'eco business.'



Millstreet Horses Ltd. received funding under the LEADER programme to further develop amenities in the Green Glens Arena



Michael Thornton from Coolefield House take part in the mentoring training with course director Mary Mulvey from Eco Tourism Ireland.



Participants on the Eco Tourism Training on site examining the possibility of tourism developments through existing bogs.

Guest speakers are regularly invited to speak and give their advice and guidance on best practice including David Griffin Pods Ireland, Deborah Benham Wild at Heart Tours in Scotland, Catherine Mack Eco Journalist, The Irish Peat Council and Eric Dempsey renowned author and RTE Radio Personality.

Eco Seminar

In May, Professor Alexander Gillespie from the University of Waikato New Zealand was key note speaker at our Eco Seminar addressing the Economic Value of Conservation and significance of World Heritage Sites. He also spoke about how Ireland needs to maximise its magnificent natural eco resources and to capitalise on increased tourism to the Duhallow area. Prof. Gillespie is the first New Zealander to be named Rapporteur for the World Heritage Convention.

Walking

The development of walks has been a key focus of all our LEADER programmes. To date we have developed 6 loop walks, two long distance walks and we are currently planning to develop an iconic walk around the Paps Mountains. We have enjoyed a high level of co-operation from Coillte, Failte Ireland and the



Mary Mulvey (Eco Tourism Ireland), David Griffin (Eco Pods Ireland) with Michael Doyle and Louise Bourke (IRD Duhallow) at the Eco Information Seminar



Board Member Dr. Barry O'Donoghue, with CEO Maura Walsh and keynote speaker Alexander Gillespie at the Eco Conference.

Sports Council of Ireland. The RSS and more recently the Tus schemes have played an essential role in upgrading and maintenance of our walks. The Walks Scheme supports landowners as they maintain the walk ways through their land.



The newly developed Clara Loop Walk which was funded by LEADER.

The Walk to the source of the Blackwater is gaining ever increasing popularity with walkers. The Saoi Network of active retired people opened their month long Bealtaine festival with a dawn mass at the source of the Blackwater.

Millstreet Country Park

One of the success stories of IRD Duhallow's LEADER Programme has been the development of Ireland's premier Eco Tourist destination in Millstreet Country Park. This breathtaking deer park is situated on the slopes of the Musheramore in the Boggeragh mountain range. It was originally developed in 1992, through LEADER



A Tin Smith at the Millstreet Country Park Traditional Craft Fair.

Ballyhass Lakes

Ballyhass Lakes is a unique outdoor activity and angling centre outside Kanturk. It caters for School Tours, Team Building and outdoor activity enthusiasts who can take part in a range of outdoor activities. Two new attractions are being developed with LEADER support, a Gravity Swing and a Free Fall Device. The addition of these products will enhance the facility and help increase tourist footfall and encourage repeat business.



Outdoor activities at Ballyhass Lakes, have been developed through LEADER.

Go Kerry

Go Kerry is a collaborative project between IRD Duhallow, South Kerry Partnership, North and East Kerry Development, Kerry County Council and Institute of Tralee. Its aim is to market the whole of Kerry as a tourist destination and to develop a unique brand for the county. The group received LEADER funding to develop a website www.gokerry.ie which was officially launched in May 2012 by Minister Jimmy Deenihan.

Angling

Duhallow was selected to host the All Ireland Senior River Championship which is held under the auspices of the Trout Anglers Federation of Ireland. 34 Anglers from the four provinces of Ireland will be attending supported by the Kanturk and District Angers Association and Araglen Anglers Association.



Minister for Arts and Heritage Jimmy Deenihan with Helen O'Sullivan, Eileen Linehan (IRD Duhallow) and Eamon O'Reilly (NEKD) at the launch of Go Kerry's Website www.gokerry.ie

Culture & Heritage

It is worth recognising the valuable role played by the creative arts in unlocking creativity and in contributing to the economic growth of Duhallow as well as building social capital within communities. Creativity is not only in the hearts of our performing arts and crafts but underpins our ability to innovate, create and exploit new economic opportunities and to compete more effectively. Numerous projects, programmes and communities have been supported through the LEADER programme to develop a range of cultural and arts resources in order to foster creativity in Duhallow. "It is impossible to tell where you are going if you do not know where you have come from" is an old saying that we in IRD Duhallow have taken to heart. Our heritage is rich and varied going right back to the Tutha Dé Danann, The Paps of the goddess Anú, sacred mountains since time immemorial have been adopted as our emblem.

Built Heritage Programme

Duhallow boasts an abundance of built heritage ranging in size from the great manor houses and castles to old schools, bridges and lime kilns. IRD Duhallow LEADER Strategy recognises the need to develop, restore and document many of these structures to ensure that these assets are preserved for future generations. With this, IRD Duhallow initiated its "Built Heritage Project", with heritage consultant Dr. Fidelma Mullane meeting with all communities in Duhallow to identify what makes their unique heritage assets. From this communities have taken it a step further and are looking outside of the built heritage and also focusing on their local culture and folklore. The involvement of local schools in the



Mrs Margaret Flynn, Fr Tommy Culloty, Fr. Murphy, Fr McCarthy PP, Mrs Margaret Hickey at the unveiling of a plaque in memory of the people from Ballydesmond who perished on the Titanic leaving only two local survivors.



Dr Fidelma Mullane advising John Curtin on traditional thatching techniques at the Boundary of the 3 Counties.



Representatives from Castlemagner Historical Society at the official unveiling of their plaque in honour of Sir Alastair MacColla in Clonmeen Graveyard with representatives from a Scottish Historical Group who visit annually.

preservation of our heritage and culture is vital for the future. Kilbrin Community Council worked with their local primary school to find the 'oldest toy in the parish' which was a fun way for children to become involved in their local heritage.

Cultural Publications

IRD Duhallow has ensured that the history and culture of the region is preserved through supporting communities and individuals to research and document their stories and experiences from their own regions and experiences. Among the historical publications in the past year are the History of Kanturk Town, Nora Herlihy and the Credit Union Movement, and a publication on Bygone Days. Kanturk and District Community Council through local author Patrick O'Sullivan researched the History of Kanturk Town from the 1500's and received LEADER funding to publish a book entitled "Where Dalua Flows, its Flood Along".



Patrick O'Sullivan Kanturk with his book "Where Dalua Flows..its flood along" documents Kanturk's history from the early 1500's.

The Duhallow Women's Forum also played their part through a joint project with UCC on the production of a book on Ballydesmond native Nora Herlihy and her role in founding the credit union movement in Ireland. This book entitled "The Origins, Ethos and Evolution of Co-Operative Credit in Ireland" brought local authors Fr. Tommy Culloty and John Stephen O'Sullivan together with the Women's Forum and UCC to produce a wonderful account of a



Conor Counihan, Jack Roche, Triona Murphy and Derry Morley at launch of the book "How it Was, a Glimpse at Life and Traditions of Bygone Days in Rural Ireland" written by, Mary O'Sullivan with Tony Walsh & Hannah Kelleher

Duhallow woman who pioneered one of the largest voluntary movements in the country.

Heritage Week 2011

IRD Duhallow takes part in National Heritage Week every August and for 2011 our focus was on celebrating the Holy Wells of Duhallow, and the customs and stories surrounding eight holy wells where people still "pay the rounds". A successful tour of the Holy Wells was

organised with over forty people making the pilgrimage over two Sundays during Heritage Week with the support of DART.



A large crowd accompanied Helen O'Sullivan and Cllr John Paul O'Shea IRD Duhallow on the tour of the Holy Wells of Duhallow during National Heritage Week.

In 2009 Rockchapel Comhaltas secured LEADER funding to deliver Master classes in traditional Irish music, song and dance. The group aptly named Ceolteoiri Sliabh Luachra are now in a position to perform to the highest standards. The Sliabh Luachra Summer School attracts young people from throughout Duhallow. With the assistance of LEADER the Teach Ceoil has been redeveloped and extended to allow for greater floor space and a stage. Bruach na Carraige can now cater for the larger numbers attending the regular shows.



President Michael D Higgins and Jack Roche enjoy a performance from the members of the Ceoilteoiri Sliabh Luachra Group who received a special invitation to perform in Aras an Uachtairain for the president and his wife Sabina.

Youth and Education

Literacy Support Programme.

Children with literacy difficulties are at a much higher risk of early school leaving. Low confidence and poor self esteem are a huge contributing factor to this.

The IRD Duhallow Literacy Support programme was pioneered by the Youth and Education Working Group back in 2003 to try and combat early school leavers. Since then the programme has grown from strength to strength. There are now 74 children with Dyslexia, Dyspraxia and Literacy Difficulties attending across a range of 10 weekly classes.



Children from the IRD Duhallow Literacy Support Programme at the End of Year Awards ceremony with Cllr. John Paul O'Shea (Chair of the Youth and Education Working Group), Louise Bourke (IRD Duhallow) and literacy tutors Val Doughty, Kate Bourke and Anna Lynch.

The literacy programme offers two strands:

TTRS (Touch Type Read and Spell)

TTRS is a specially devised computer programme which explicitly helps children with dyslexia. The classes are held in the Afterschools computer lab, which is equipped with 15 computers and the programme focuses on teaching children how to touch type based on the Alpha and Omega spelling method. The programme uses a mix of auditory and visual aids which give the best overall result and children are encouraged to work at their own meeting their own designated targets each week. The classes are facilitated by Tús worker Anna Lynch, who has a background in childcare and I.T.

Literacy Workshops

The IRD Duhallow Literacy Workshops are offered in the Afterschools building, the classes are taught by a dedicated literacy specialist Val Doughty and ably assisted by primary school teacher Kate Bourke. The small class sizes mean that the teachers can carry out differentiated learning and can specifically tailor the teaching to meet each child's individual needs.

Awards Night

To acknowledge the achievements and hard work of the children throughout the literacy programme at the end of the year we have a 'Show and Tell' Awards night. The purpose of the night is to celebrate each child's talents and achievements, promoting self esteem and

build confidence. Parents, Grandparents, Aunts, Uncles, Sisters and Brothers were all in attendance, to cheer the children on, as they recited poems, displayed baking, danced and sang to a packed room. Afterwards every child received a trophy and certificate acknowledging their achievement.

Laugh and Learn Summer Camp

Due to the increasing demand for the Laugh and Learn Summer Camp, an extra camp had to be added, one held in July and the other in August. These activity filled weeks saw children enjoy 'fun' activities combined with an hour of literacy classes every morning and evening. At the end of the week parents received a written report on their child's progress, and were given helpful advice and tips on how to best help their child at home for the holiday months.

Parents Colette Tully and Thelma O'Sullivan with Literacy Tutor Val Doughty, at one of the literacy advisory clinics held regularly as part of the IRD Duhallow Literacy support programme.



Parents Supports

When a child is first diagnosed with a learning difficulty it can be a daunting time for parents, who undergo immense stress and worry about their child's future. The IRD Duhallow Literacy Programme recognises the pivotal role played by parents in helping their child overcome their difficulty and the mantra is certainly that 'support begins at home.' That's why the programme regularly runs one on one advisory clinics with the literacy tutor Val Doughty, where parents can receive guidance and advice on how best to help their child at home. In May, the group organised a seminar with Marie Stubbings of the Limerick Dyslexia Centre who gave a practical talk to parents and teachers on 'Coping with Dyslexia.'

Duhallow Boxing Club

The Duhallow Boxing Club was animated by IRD Duhallow, who brought together interested parents and coaches to a public meeting in March 2011 and from there, a committee was set up Chaired by former boxer Jim McConville. A premises was rented in O'Callaghan's old garage and it was converted and equipped with top of the range boxing training equipment. The club opened its doors in September 2011 and



James O'Connor and Sam Hennessy, members of the Duhallow Boxing Club, preparing for an upcoming boxing tournament.

now boasts over 70 members who are competing successfully in local tournaments. Boxing is renowned for the phenomenal level of fitness and athleticism required, and it promotes young people being active and involved in their communities through engaging in a worthwhile sport requiring the utmost dedication. The children train three nights a week and all the coaching and committee time is given entirely voluntarily.



Minority sports are an ideal vehicle for inclusion.

Youth and Education

Subject Specific Workshops for Junior Certificate and Leaving Certificate

Thirty seven students participated in the recent workshops held for students in Junior Certificate and Leaving Certificate. These workshops focused on English and in particular helped the students to explore how to write effective essays and to look at the common pitfalls in punctuation and grammar. Additionally students were assisted on how to manage their time in an exam situation; look at the questions carefully and to determine what the questions are really asking. The programme allowed the individuals taking part to enhance their self-esteem and confidence before their respective exams and importantly offered extra support and advice in rurally disadvantaged areas.



Daire O'Keeffe from St. Coleman's Boys N.S. being presented with the Best Speaker Prize by Youth and Education Working Group Chair Cllr. John Paul O'Shea at the IRD Duhallow Primary School Public Speaking Final.

Public Speaking

Public speaking is an invaluable skill, which will stand to young people throughout their lives. The Youth and Education Working group developed the IRD Duhallow Public Speaking Competition, to promote personal development of children and allow them to stand in front of a room and speak. 9 teams took part in this year's Youth and Primary Schools Public Speaking Competition. They represented Freemount N.S., Cullen N.S., Kanturk Boys N.S., Rockchapel N.S., Newmarket Boys N.S., Liscarroll N.S. Lyre N.S. and St. Lachtien's of

Donoughmore, and the standard was exceptional. However, there could only be one overall winner, and the Carroll Insurance Cup was awarded to Cullen N.S., with the team from St. Colman's Boys' N.S. Kanturk. coming in a close second. Congratulations also to Dara O'Keeffe from St. Colman's who was awarded the Best Speaker prize.



Community Garda John Crowley and Robert O'Halloran, Common Purpose investigating the topic of alcohol and substance abuse in Duhallow with 2nd year students who completed 'Your Turn' Youth Leadership Project

Your Turn' Youth Leadership Programme

60 transition year students from four secondary schools from Duhallow participated in 'Your Turn', a leadership programme for young people delivered by Common Purpose. 'Your Turn' challenged the young people to examine how decisions are made and see how they can make change happen. The young people examined topical current affairs, community issues and asked hard hitting questions of community leaders. The transferable nature of 'Your Turn' allows young people to develop as leaders in sport, community roles etc.

Careers Exhibition

IRD Duhallow's annual Careers Exhibition provided students with a unique opportunity to meet with representatives from National Universities, Institute's of Technology, PLC Training colleges, Agricultural colleges etc. to provide students with relevant and up to date information on the range of study opportunities available in Ireland.



John Fintan Daly facilitates a site visit to his Solicitors Offices in Kanturk for students participating in 'Your Turn' Youth Leadership Programme.

Home Work Clubs

Research undertaken by the IRD Duhallow Youth and Education Working Group highlighted that the majority of students who leave school early have struggled with completing their studies. As a result of this the Working Group has worked closely with 4 local secondary schools over the years to establish and develop homework clubs. Students who have difficulty completing homework and struggle to focus receive support to complete their studies on a weekly basis. Millstreet Parents Council took it upon themselves in 2011 to establish a community based homework club for local students which is also supported by IRD Duhallow. Two primary schools, Tullylease and Stuake have also identified the need to provide extra supports to children requiring assistance with their homework and literacy which will prepare them for their further studies at second level.



Gillian Cotter, Mallow College of Further Education outlines the variety of options available to students Embie Baki and Samantha Mulley, Millstreet Community School at IRD Duhallow's Annual Career Exhibition with Triona Murphy, IRD Duhallow.



Members of Freemount Macra with founding Chairman Sean Fitzpatrick, launching the Freemount Macra Festival which was funded by LEADER. The inter generational festival offered a jam packed week of activities to celebrate the club's 50th anniversary culminating in a traditional field evening at Moses Roches' Farm in Freemount.

Equality for Women & Childcare

Equality for Women and Childcare

IRD Duhallow established the Women and Childcare Working Group in a direct response to the identified needs of women from the region. It continues to advocate for the positive development of women's rights and opportunities especially those disempowered within rural areas. The Working Group was particularly heartened by the new legislative measures proposed by the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government in the Electoral (Amendment) (Political Funding) Bill 2011 which will provide, among other things, that political parties will face a cut of half their State funding received under the Electoral Act 1997 if they do not have at least 30% women and 30% men candidates at the next general election.

This is particularly relevant as it is more than ninety years after women in Ireland won the vote, thanks in no small part to Duhallow-born suffragette Hannah Sheehy Skeffington, and only 15 per cent of our Dáil Deputies are women. It is hoped that with this new bill parties will put in place strategies to engage more women to meet the quota coming down the line in advance of the next general election.



Maura Walsh CEO IRD Duhallow and Minister Jimmy Deenihan with speakers on "Making a Difference – The Impact of Women in Public Affairs and Business" Nicola Byrne (CEO and founder of CALL 11890 Ltd), Linda O'Shea Farren (Former Corporate Lawyer and Founding President of the Irish American Law Society) and Orlaith Carmody (Managing Director of Mediatraining.ie)

Nora Herlihy Conference

IRD Duhallow continues to highlight the important contribution of the many Duhallow women at local, national and international level. In 2009 with the centenary of the Birth of **Nora Herlihy Credit Union Pioneer**, the Duhallow Women's Forum was anxious to mark this occasion. With the Centre of Co-operative Studies in conjunction with the Department of Geography at University College Cork and Rathmore and District Credit Union, the Women's Forum commissioned a book on Nora Herlihy and the Credit Union Movement. December of last year saw the culmination of a long and extensive effort to honour Nora Herlihy in a befitting manner with a conference on "The Role of Rural Women in a Recession." "The Origins, Ethos and Evolution of Cooperative Credit in Ireland" was launched by Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht Affairs Minister Jimmy Deenihan.



Members of local and national Credit Unions with Minister Jimmy Deenihan at the launch of "The Origins, Ethos and Evolution of Co-operative Credit in Ireland" Celebrating the Centenary of the Birth of Nora Herlihy.

Nora Herlihy was born in Ballydesmond in 1920 and worked as a National School teacher in Dublin. Along with two others, Séamus P. MacEoin and Sean Forde, she introduced the Credit Union movement to Ireland in 1958 when many families were in abject poverty.

The conference was a fitting tribute to Nora as Finbar McCarthy presented the "The Irish Credit Union Movement, Past Present & Future, A Personal Perspective". Dr. Carol Power illustrated "The function of the Credit Union in Tackling Rural Poverty" and Maura Walsh revealed "The role of Local Action Groups in Rural Development". There was a large representation from Credit Unions around the country and universities alike. The afternoon session focused on "Making a Difference – The Impact of Women in Public Affairs and Business" with over 140 people in attendance on the day. The Pink Tank presenters were Orlaith Carmody, Linda O'Shea Farren and Nichola Byrne. Both the conference and the commemorative book were supported through LEADER.



Siobhan Ryan, Health Promotion Nurse Irish Heart Foundation and Amy Murphy Mallow Day Care Centre at the Seminar on "Alzheimer and Stroke" with Judy O'Leary Chairperson Duhallow Women's Forum.

Information Seminars

The Duhallow Women's Forum also organised a number of key information seminars targeted towards the people of Duhallow on topics of relevance, including 'Alzheimer's and Stroke – An Overview on the Risk Factors and Warning Signs - What support services are available?' Additionally the Forum arranged a night on "Redesigning Your Home on a Budget" which attracted a great interest from the public.

2012 also saw the commemoration of **Nora (O'Leary) Herlihy Survivor of the HMS Titanic**. A Ceremony of Remembrance was held to honour the Duhallow people who set out on the Titanic on its maiden voyage. Dr. Michael Martin (Titanic Trail Author and Creator) was the keynote speaker and Sr. Maureen Cahill facilitated a prayer ceremony. The night had three main components in that it provided a lecture on the Titanic, the Procession of Names of the people from Duhallow and "The Word of the People". In Ballydesmond Fr. McCarthy and local historian Fr. Tommy Culloty blessed and unveiled a plaque in the church grounds to honour the young people who perished and the three who survived. This event was a resounding success with a huge level of attendance from the public.



Mary Hickey, Duhallow Women's Forum and Sr. Maureen Cahill place the stones in the "Procession of Names" in honour of the people who embarked on the Titanic on its fateful journey.

Equality for Women Measure

The LCDP Strategic Plan stresses a clear need for further efforts to address the low levels of female participation in the labour force. IRD Duhallow through the Equality for Women Measure which is funded by the Department of Justice and Equality and the European Social



Phil Looney and Joan Foley relatives of William Foley, Donoughmore, who perished on the Titanic on its maiden voyage at the Ceremony of Remembrance Night.



Relatives of those who embarked on the Titanic at the IRD Duhallow's Ceremony of Remembrance night, with Guest Speaker Dr. Michael Martin and Mary Mc Hugh of IRD Duhallow.

Equality for Women & Childcare

Fund through the Human Capital Investment Operational Programme 2007-2013 have identified key initiatives to address this issue. IRD Duhallow was successful in its application for funding towards Year 2 of the Equality for Women Measure 2010-2013 and aims to address other factors which are inhibiting participation including lack of confidence/poor self esteem and fear of failure.



Judy O'Leary Chairperson of the Duhallow Women's Forum presenting a Certificate to Ann Fitzgerald who has completed a number of courses through the Equality For Women Measure.

With this funding, IRD Duhallow implemented a number of distinct initiatives to meet the diverse needs of participants. Eight key training programmes were delivered including two Personal Development Programmes, Two "Grow Your Own" training courses, a FETAC Level 5 Women into Enterprise Training Course, two Work/life Balance Training Courses and a FETAC Level Four Computer Application Course. The aim of these programmes was to enable women to upskill and improve their access to further training, education and employment. Over 100 women have accessed training courses and some moved onto Mentoring and Guidance courses. The option for Mentoring and Guidance allowed for individuals to explore their options on a one to one basis and really focus on what they want to do next in terms of employment, training or further education.



Brid O'Brien tutor helping Noreen O'Connor as she prepares for her assessment at the FETAC Level Four ICT Skills training programme that was funded by Equality For Women Measure.

Another key area of delivery was the focused Workshops on Seeking Employment. These two workshops enabled women to partake and learn successful techniques to use when trying to secure employment. The workshops rolled out were Effective Job Search Strategies and Interview Preparation Workshops, which assisted the participants to become more aware of their Unique Selling Points and to alleviate the issues of lack of confidence and fear of failure.



Another successful course being rolled out as a result of the Equality For Women Measure. All hands on deck as participants learn how to Grow Their Own.



Michaela Donegan tutor providing a demonstration to participants on the Upcycling/Recycling Training course which was funded through LCDP.)

Childcare

Accessible reliable and affordable childcare may sometimes be a challenge for rural working families. The seven Community Childcare facilities animated and supported by IRD Duhallow in their development continue to promote participation in community development and the workforce, and despite the current economic downturn all are at a maximum capacity catering for over 500 children.



Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources Pat Rabbitte, making new friends at the Newmarket Afterschool as he sees first hand the benefits to the rural people of Duhallow.

Newmarket After Schools

The provision of an After Schools facility in a rural area allows parents the opportunity to work outside of the home or partake in training, content in the knowledge that their children are being cared for in a safe environment. It was for this reason that IRD Duhallow established the Newmarket After Schools in 2005 due to the lack of any such facility in the area at the time. The facility provides an essential service to local parents as children are collected daily from local schools by Duhallow Area Rural Transport and are escorted by a passenger assistant to the After Schools. There they are provided with a hot nutritious meal and complete their homework with support from the childcare staff. Children who have difficulty with various aspects of their homework, benefit from extra one to one sessions with staff in dyslexia support etc. Additional to the learning support that the facility provides the social element is a significant part of it also.



Anna Lynch giving a helping hand in the Afterschools while on placement on the TUS Scheme.

Children have the opportunity to interact outside of school with their peers and the provision of camps during the Easter, Halloween and Summer Breaks also facilitate this. The camps vary from IT camps to Baking Camps. The Community Childcare Subvention Programme (CCS) plays a vital role in the provision of an affordable service for parents as it allows for the After Schools to operate on a tiered pricing system which provides a reduction in costs for families in receipt of a social welfare payment or the medical card. This helps to ensure that families regardless of their financial circumstances are able to access our service.



"Many hands make light work" – children at the afterschools getting a taste for baking.

Transnational

The Role of Cooperation in the LEADER approach

IRD Duhallow has realised from the very outset of the LEADER programme that there is much to learn from implementing co-operation projects at local level, inter-territorial projects with neighbouring Local Development Companies and transnational projects with groups from other countries. These actions have been a source of inspiration and best practice for improving the LEADER programme and the Local Action Groups at a local level. Connecting



Pedro Borsei DG Agri presents the concept of the common framework for post 2014-2020 to ELARD general Council including Jack Roche, Maura Walsh and Eileen Linehan of IRD Duhallow

people triggers new innovative ways of doing things and encourages the emergence of new projects. IRD Duhallow has had very positive experiences in cooperation with LEADER groups in Counties Cork, Kerry and Limerick and further afield in Scotland, Finland, Poland, Germany, Hungary, Slovenia, France, the Czech Republic, England, Sweden, South Africa and Turkey. Most of the cooperation projects focus on the development of shared activities, products or services. The process enables the LEADER groups to share experiences and learn together. Through inter-territorial and transnational co-operation LEADER groups are able to undertake new activities and achieve economies of scale as well.



Frans Fischler French Commissioner for Agriculture and Jack Roche share their outlook on the future of Rural Development.

The first step in co-operation is to join the Regional and National Networks. IRD Duhallow participates actively in ILDN with our Chairs nominee Jack Roche representing Ireland on ELARD, The European Leader Association for Rural Development. Our CEO and Senior Team Leader are regular attendees and host ILDN South Region. ILDN is the National Network of Rural and Urban groups and Jack Roche sits on its post 2013 working group where he chairs the group. Maura Walsh chairs the Tus/RSS Working Groups and sits on the Implementation Group.

Through our participation in ELARD IRD Duhallow has been able to tap into best practice and vision planning as well as participate on the EC Thematic Working Group 4, whose deliberations will inform the post 2013 programmes.

Day of the Regions

The concept for 'A Day of the Region' was first established in 1999 in Germany as an 'Open Doors Event' where organisations and communities in rural regions highlighted opportunities and possibilities available to people in their region. Since this the concept has grown substantially and Duhallow joins with eight other European Countries taking the initiative to develop and implement it in their own regions.



Eileen Linehan and Sr. Margaret on a trip to Wicklow Rural Partnership Tús programme with Frank d'Arcy CEO and John Healy Tús Supervisor Wicklow LEADER Partnership



Maura Walsh IRD Duhallow with Charles Keane, Cappoquin and ELO and Angelo Salsi Head of EC LIFE Nature Unit.

'Discover Duhallow... A Day of the Region'

was launched in July. A 10 day programme with over 70 events was coordinated in celebration of rural community life to showcase what Duhallow has to offer for all generations. Cooperation partners from LEADER companies in Scotland and Holland travelled to Duhallow to take part in the festivities. Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht

Minister Jimmy Deenihan, TD officially launched the Festival with a period costume themed reception at the James O'Keeffe Institute in Newmarket. IRD Duhallow Community working group is now looking at expanding the event to co-incide with Fáilte Irelands 2013 "Gathering" festival which aims to attract the Irish Diaspora back home to visit and touch base with their roots.



Rolling back the years for the launch of Discover Duhallow - Day of the Regions were Eileen Linehan trying out a Daimler from Duhallow Vintage Club watched by Katie Crowley, Helen O'Sullivan and Colm Crowley.



Helen O'Sullivan at the Dumfries & Galloway's Day of the Region Launch with Roz Halley CEO Dumfries & Galloway's Local Action Group.



IRD Duhallows SAOI Network members with their Finnish Partners.

the Third Age, Poland obtained funding for a partnership project "Memory Matters". The objective is to target older isolated people through reminiscence and heritage activity. The project placed an emphasis on strengthening education and learning practices within each organisation whilst supporting the exchange, best practices and know how. Members of IRD Duhallow's Saai Network participated in study visits to the adult education services in each partner country. Through this sharing at European level, the partner organisations have found new ways to address the challenges they face, inspiring and developing new approaches to providing quality education for older learners.



IRD Duhallows SAOI Network bring the "Holly Bough" to one of Finland's frozen lakes during the grundtvig exchange.

Memory Matters – Grundtvig Partnership Project

Part of the European Commission's Lifelong Learning Programme (LLP), Grundtvig focuses on education for adults, whether through formal, non formal or informal methods. Following on from a Grundtvig contact seminar in Tallinn, Estonia in November 2009, IRD Duhallow, Sisä-Savon Kansalaisopisto, Finland, Harrow Adult Community Learning Service, London and the Society of the Warsaw Frederic Chopin University of

Environment

Recent growth in economic development has seen increased pressure on the natural environment with many of our native species and habitats becoming endangered. IRD Duhallow guided through the work of the Environment Working Group has a Biodiversity Plan in place, which sets out a programme of work aimed at securing the conservation and sustainable use of our environment. A key element of our strategic plan is that every sector of society in Duhallow must play a role in our efforts to protect the natural environment. The past twelve months have been prolific in terms of environment awareness with numerous projects, events, workshops and seminars organised to raise awareness and educate the people of Duhallow on the importance of our unique environment.



Dr. Barry O'Donoghue talking to Primary School Children on the Hen Harrier which is the subject of a LEADER Funded Satellite Tracking Project.

Hen Harrier Satellite Tracking Project

Duhallow is nationally and internationally an important region for Hen Harriers, with two Special Protection Areas. This places Duhallow in a position of pride, whereby the region can be seen to hold the highest environmental standards, given it has one of the rarest pieces of nature in Ireland and indeed Europe. However, the population here is in serious decline and Duhallow is in danger of losing its harriers. In 2012 IRD Duhallow and National Parks and Wildlife Service with the aid of LEADER funding embarked on an exciting project, satellite tracking Hen Harriers with the aim of gathering scientific and conservation data, while involving the community and general public in becoming more aware and knowledgeable about the harrier.

Duhallow Raptor Conservation Project

As top predators, raptors are sentinels of the health of our environment and are an essential component of a functioning, naturally balanced ecosystem. IRD Duhallow in collaboration with Bird Watch Ireland developed "Duhallow Raptor Project". This project is focused on three key raptor species, the Barn Owl, Kestrel and Long-Eared Owl. The aim of the project is to increase awareness and appreciation of raptor populations and wider environmental issues on a local and national basis through the implementation of a detailed research, monitoring and conservation protocol. This research delivers data on the ecology and status of the raptors in Duhallow, the importance of the area for raptors in a national context and provides direct conservation benefits for Barn Owl, Kestrel and Long-eared Owls in Duhallow.



John Lusby Birdwatch Ireland introduces keen birdwatcher Kay Deady to a local Barn owl.



A large crowd gathered in the James O'Keeffe Institute to listen to Raptor Conservation Officer John Lusby speak on the Importance of the Barn Owl to Duhallow.

Duhallow's Bird Watch Group

IRD Duhallow Bird watch group now in it's second years has sixty members including professional conversationalists, amateur and beginner bird watchers. During the year numerous activities were organised including: bird watch trips to Mizen Head, Timoleague,



Eric Dempsey, one of Irelands leading bird guides and team member of the Mooney Show on RTE Radio 1, speaker at IRD Duhallows seminar on Garden Birds

Millstreet Country Park and Cape Clear Island. The field trips were designed to aid beginners and those with some experience in the craft of bird watching. Information seminars and workshops were organised throughout the year including our second successful Dawn Chorus attended by over eighty people. Guest speakers throughout the year included: John Lusby Birdwatch Ireland who presented on the importance of Raptors, Padraig Whelan UCC led a field trip on the importance of Hedgerows, Eric Dempsey of the popular "Mooney" show presented on Garden Birds, Barry O'Donoghue NPWS and IRD Duhallow Board Member delivered a presentation to 150 school children on the Hen Harrier and Alan Mee of the Golden Eagle Trust delivered a highly informative seminar on White Tailed Eagles. A number of the events took place during the month of April which is the fifth consecutive year IRD Duhallow organised a highly successful Environment Awareness Month with over 250 individuals of all ages in attendance.



This year IRD Duhallows annual Dawn Chorus morning which was facilitated by Michael Doyle and Brin McDonnell.



Bird enthusiasts of all ages congregated in the Island Wood Newmarket on a cold and frosty May Morning to witness the wonders of the Dawn Chorus.

National Tree Week 2012

This year National Tree week took place from the 4th to the 10th March. The Theme this year was "Trees – Our Past, Our Present and our Future. This was a week long festival celebrating all the positive aspects of trees in our lives and environment. IRD Duhallow received trees from Cork Environment Forum which were distributed to 30 groups and schools in the Duhallow area as well as prompting people to plant more trees it was also a means to celebrate our remarkable heritage of tress and woodlands.

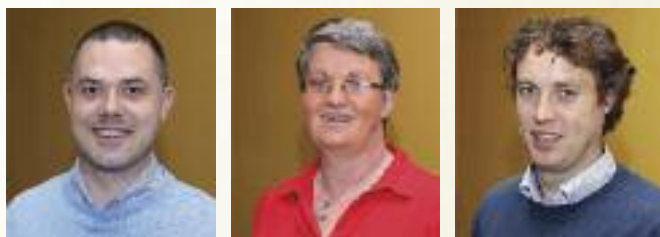


Members of GY Duhallow getting ready to plant Native Trees on the grounds of the James O'Keeffe Institute to celebrate National Tree Week



Pupils from Shrone National School who planted tress to mark National Tree Week, 30 groups and schools in Duhallow took part in the initiative.

Rural Social Scheme



RSS Supervisors: Tim Ring, Sheila O'Keeffe, Billy Dennehy.

IRD Duhallow's Rural Social Scheme (RSS) has built a strong local presence and proven its intrinsic value in strengthening and sustaining the rural community infrastructure of Duhallow. IRD Duhallow has 3 schemes with 58 participants who undertake a broad range of community based work throughout the region under the Department of Social Protection. The aim of the RSS is to provide supplementary income for low income farmers and their families by providing off farm employment within the community. These farmers work 19.5 hours per week contributing hugely to the enhancement of the social, physical, natural and cultural resources of their countryside.



Teresa O'Neill, RSS participant provides administrative support for Duhallow Community Food Services and farms in Lombardstown.

Enhancing Rural Life: A lifeline for Low Income Farmers

While there has been positive growth in agriculture recently, it remains a low-income sector in Duhallow due to size of holding. Cash flow and financial uncertainties of the world market are a major factor concerning not only in the day to day management of the farm but also the stress levels on the farm family. This is further exacerbated by a reduced availability of credit which has put additional pressure on farm cash flow and incomes. The annual income boost afforded to the low income farmers through the RSS provides them with the confidence to reinvest in their farm businesses, strengthening and stabilising their future viability. The "farmer friendly" ethos of the RSS allows flexible work hours to enable the farmers to continue carrying out their everyday farm duties. Additionally, dependent spouses can take up a place on the scheme in place of the original applicant if they wish offering an opportunity of broader work experience.



Helen O'Connor, RSS participant helping the mini chefs in IRD Duhallow's Afterschool and back to the farm tending to her cattle in the evenings.

The social dimension of the scheme cannot be underestimated for those farming in remote areas like Duhallow, modern day farming can be an isolated activity. The RSS has provided the vital social contact for people to thrive and there is also an increase in the quality of life for both the participant and their families through improved income security, increased self esteem, independence and self worth. Access to training opportunities is an essential component for the development of participants allowing them to enhance their existing skills and develop new ones. Manual Handling and Safe Pass are offered through the Rural Social Scheme

Programme. This year 5 RSS participants were also given an opportunity to take part in the Digital TV Aerial Installation Training which was funded through LEADER.

Strengthening Communities

Through IRD Duhallow's solid track record of local community involvement the RSS has crucial links with community groups throughout the region. The participants are recognised and very much appreciated for performing valuable work to a very high standard, village enhancement, painting, cutting grass and hedges, the provision of the 'Greenman' street sweeper and the development and upgrading of walks as well as supporting the Rural Meal Service and Warmer Homes. The clearly visible improvements to local villages and towns are testament to the success of the Rural Social Scheme Programme. Rathmore, a community which has received RSS assistance will represent Kerry at the national Pride of Place competition 2012. While Freemount has gone forward in the Cork competition with RSS support. RSS workers, by carrying out the more mundane time consuming work, frees up the volunteers time to concentrate on developing more facilities and services in their communities.



RSS Participants Neily Cronin and Davey Joe Breen working together to enhance the town of Kanturk with the assistance of the Green Man Street Sweeper.



From the Office to the Farm Yard - Nuala O'Riordan, RSS participant busy with clerical work as part of her RSS duties and back to her stable duties later that evening.

Walks Development

With miles of trails to explore, there are walking trails to suit all ages and abilities throughout Duhallow. IRD Duhallow administers the Walks Scheme for the Duhallow Way Walk which stretches 29km East to West of the region. The Walks Scheme provides funding for private landholders to maintain and upgrade their portion of the route. RSS has also been involved in the development, enhancement and maintenance of Claragh, Mt. Hillary, Mullaghareirk and the Source of the Blackwater Looped walks, all of which are accredited by the National Trails Office. The combined cooperation and participation of the RSS and private landowners has resulted in high quality walking products for visitors and locals alike.

Life + Project

The RSS supports the LIFE + project along the Rivers Allow and Dallua by eradicating the Himalayan Balsam. The RSS has also built nesting boxes for the Kingfisher and the Dipper and installed them under



Patrick O'Keeffe, RSS participant assisting the LIFE team in the eradication of the Himalayan Balsam. Patrick farms in Shrone and has a suckler herd.

bridges along the river to aid the birds during nesting season. Participants have designed and made otter holts to improve breeding conditions for otters as well as carrying out bank revetment work to halt erosion and siltation of the Fresh Water Pearl Mussel beds.

TÚS progress Report 2011/2012



Don Murphy



Con O'Sullivan



Nora O'Connell

Overview

The TÚS scheme is a work placement initiative introduced by government in late 2010. This programme is managed at local level, on behalf of the Department of Social Protection by the Local Development Companies. The TÚS initiative provides short term work opportunities for people unemployed for over twelve months, to work in the community and voluntary sector, and provide a broad range of skills and services which will benefit our communities for 1 year. In a recent progress report of the implementing body's for TÚS-community work placements initiative it highlighted IRD Duhallow as one of the first development company's in Ireland to fill its allocated places out of the 5000 made available nationally. We were initially awarded 2 schemes with a total of 40 participants, which were filled immediately in July 2011. Given the slow uptake of the positions nationally, we were awarded an additional scheme in February 2012 for a further 20 participants and one additional supervisor.

Benefits to participants

There are currently 60 TÚS Participants in 3 schemes on our TÚS programme, each scheme has 20 participants. In addition to the top up on their social welfare payment, there are many other benefits to the individual in this scheme, such as generating a sense of psychological and general well-being and an opportunity to become involved with a wider sector of society while working as part of a team. Those who participate receive ongoing training that enhances their existing skills, and develop new strengths and therefore improve their future employability prospects. The scheme is designed to reintroduce long term unemployed to the structure of work and help them refocus on employment while gaining valuable skills.

Benefits to Communities

Similar to the RSS, TÚS affords community groups and organisations access to a pool of participants to carry out a variety of community work.

PROJECTS IN DUHALLOW

Renovations of Heritage Buildings

One of the first major projects to be undertaken by TÚS is the reconstruction and renovation of the out-buildings in the James O'Keefe Institute, which has a protected structure status. The work involves the sensitive restoration of this structure to its former glory by using traditional methods. Participants are learning many lost traditional skills, such as various lime-mixes, stone and brick bonding, and traditional wood and plastering techniques.



Noel Ward explains to Minister Pat Rabbitte how the chair will be repaired and restored - ready for REUSE in the community.

Furniture Revamp Programme

Through the work of our Warmer Homes Scheme we have become acutely aware that many older people and low income families are living in quite frugal circumstances. This coupled with the need to provide training and employment opportunities for people with disabilities and mental ill health prompted us to develop REVAMP, our furniture recycling programme.



TÚS participants learning new stone work skills to reconstruct the old 'Smoke House' building on the grounds of the James O'Keefe Institute, Newmarket.

With cutbacks in funding, we are still awaiting a CSP programme for the REVAMP furniture recycling project. However, TÚS provided and ideal opportunity to initiate the project. We collect in any unwanted furniture from the public and set about restoring it with a view to selling on a nominal fee to disadvantaged people who are not in a position to pay full price.

Some furniture requires more skilled repairs or expertise and so a training programme was put in place and Noel Ward a highly skilled upholsterer was appointed as trainer. TÚS participants are being taught all aspects of this trade and are gaining valuable experience and skills which can be transferred to the labour market once their term on TÚS is complete.

Supporting Communities

TÚS is also providing support to a number of community enterprises in Duhallow including DCF5 rural meals service, Duhallow Warmer Homes Scheme and a helping with the eradication of Himalayan Balsam. Village Renewal, Community Centres, Sporting clubs and organisations are also benefiting.



Maura Walsh, Minister Sean Sherlock (Department of Enterprise, Jobs & Innovation and Department of Education & Skills with responsibility for Research & Innovation) and TUS participant Michael Walsh explaining the service in the REVAMP furniture workshop.

Warmer Homes Initiative



Colm Crowley

COLM CROWLEY, Certificate in Business Studies, Diploma in Rural Development

Colm has 5 years experience as the Warmer Homes Coordinator and is responsible for the day to day running of the scheme. He is a registered BER Assessor with the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland and recently completed a 2 year Diploma in Rural Development.

IRD Duhallows Warmer Homes Scheme has been insulating homes in the Duhallow and the greater North Cork area since 2006. As of the end of 2011, over 2,120 have received attic and cavity wall insulation measures under the scheme. Our 2012 contract has been significantly reduced on the previous years with the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI). SEAI provides a grant towards the purchase of materials and general overhead costs. Should extra funding become available from SEAI later this year, we have the capacity to increase our targets to 600 houses.

Up to March 2012, this service was available to those in receipt of the Free Fuel Allowance who live in owner occupied homes that were built prior to 2002. Any applications from April onwards are subject to new qualifying criteria that have yet to be determined by SEAI.



RSS participant Con Guiney fits a lagging jacket which can help reduce water heating costs by up to 30%.

Cost Benefits

Energy efficiency is the single most cost-effective means to mitigate energy poverty, and also delivers considerable health and wellbeing benefits. With the continuous upward trend in the price of fuel, householders are finding it more and more difficult to meet the costs of heating their home to an adequate standard. Insulating your home can substantially reduce your home heating bills. By installing 300mm of Fibreglass insulation in your attic and where feasible pumping the cavity wall with bonded bead, IRD Duhallows Warmer Homes Scheme can help householders to reduce their home heating costs by up to 40%. An uninsulated hot water cylinder loses heat rapidly. It is possible to save up to 30% of water heating costs by properly fitting a good quality lagging jacket. We also supply and fit low energy light bulbs which consume 80% less power and last 8 times longer than ordinary bulbs. As heat can be lost through tiny gaps in doors and windows our installers can draught proof wooden framed doors and windows to eliminate further heat loss.

Local Employment

The Warmer Homes Scheme is staffed through a number of labour schemes. The Rural Social Scheme (RSS) and the newly formed TUS Scheme supply participants 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. SEAI also provides us with funding to top-up the wages of CSP staff.



One of our trained installers, RSS participant Tom Hartnett installs attic insulation 300mm in dept as per SEAI Technical Specifications. RSS was key to the roll out of the Warmer Homes Scheme initially and still provides one team of attic and cavity wall workers to the initiative.



Francis Lee drills a hole for cavity wall insulation. All our staff has completed FETAC Thermal Installer Insulation, working at height training and hold a current safe pass.

Quality Control

Delivering a high standard in the service we provide is crucial in order for us to continue to receive funding from SEAI. We carry out internal quality checks on every house we insulate to ensure standards remain high. Kerrigan Sheanon Newman (KSN) is contracted by SEAI to oversee the quality control aspect of the Warmer Homes Scheme. Their inspectors visit 20% of completed houses and report their finding back to SEAI.



Michael Martin SEAI, Colm Crowley IRD Duhallow & John Flynn, Programme Manager Better Energy Warmer Homes Scheme at the National WHS Forum Meeting which is held quarterly.

All attic crews have received FETAC Thermal Insulation training and our cavity wall crews have undertaken Thermosnug Insulation training. All of our installers hold a current Safe Pass and have completed Manual Handling and Working at Heights training. Some of our installers also work on the administration side of the project contacting households to schedule appointments for surveys and inputting data on the SEAI website. Our cavity wall system is certified by the National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI) who conducts yearly audits to ensure we deliver our service in accordance with our certificate.



John Sheehan Knocknacolan Kanturk relaxes in the warmth of his newly insulated home after receiving both attic and cavity wall insulation from the Warmer Homes Scheme.

Future of the Warmer Homes Scheme

In December 2011, the Department of Communications, Energy & Natural Resources (DCENR) published *Warmer Homes, A Strategy for Affordable Energy in Ireland*.

To date, the Warmer Homes Scheme has been funded by the Exchequer. While this has delivered improvements in over 81,000 homes nationally, it is reliant upon scarce Exchequer resources.

The Department will ensure that energy saving in low-income households remains a key objective in the future. Central to this will be the development of a national pay-as-you-save (PAYS) scheme for Ireland. This will ensure that there is no upfront cost to the householder; rather they would pay the costs of insulation through their utility bill. From the energy savings that the household will make from this insulation their bills will reduce so the costs balance out with savings made.

This model has the potential to remove, or greatly reduce, the need for state support and it is intended to have a workable model in place by 2014.



One of the Warmer Home Schemes Vans which is part of a fleet of 5 vans that we have on the road serving North Cork.

Rural Transport Programme



Yvonne Brosnan B.A. Information Systems Management, Dip. International Business, Cert. E-Commerce, Cert. Supervisory Management, F.Diploma in Education and Training

As DART Co-ordinator, Yvonne is responsible for the planning, implementation and overall day to day management of the Duhallow Area Rural Transport Programme. She manages the recruitment and supervision of Passenger Assistants and Administration staff. She generates reports for Pobal under both the Rural Transport and Community Services Programmes and liaises with community groups and consults on transport needs.



TO Participants from all over Duhallow access their workshop in Newmarket through transport by DART



Children of Lyre avail of transport to attend a seminar on the Hen Harrier

DART was piloted in Duhallow ten years ago with an initial 4 routes and 3,272 passengers. In 2011, we had over 50 routes and carried 58,686 passengers. DART has grown to become a lifeline for rural Duhallow, providing access for those most marginalized to towns and villages and ensures access to services.



Mrs. Mary Murphy who is a regular user of the Kilbrin to Kanturk weekly route.

The 2009 Value for Money report published in 2011 failed to fully report on the success of rural transport nationally, as sometimes it is difficult to measure the impact of a service on people's lives, with the focus being on numbers of trips and passengers' costs rather than the actual impact on peoples. With major cutbacks in government funding, the future of rural transport has been uncertain over the past two years, with groups like DART only getting short term contracts. Minister Alan Kelly recently announced that the Rural Transport Programme will have a national budget of €9.77million for 2012 with further cuts in 2013 and 2014. These cuts will have a major impact on the lives of rural dwellers, particularly in Duhallow, where rural isolation is already a major factor. We have had to curtail and cut some routes as a result of these reductions in funding. However, in response to the ever deteriorating budget situation, IRD Duhallow's Social Economy Working Group under the chairmanship of Noel Dillon pioneered an innovative solution to help us keep route curtailment to a minimum. IRD Duhallow's DART Travel Supporters Club was launched in March 2012 which has been received very well by our regular users, highlighting the importance and high esteem in which our service is held locally.

Noel Dillon, Chairperson of IRD Duhallow's Social Economy Working Group meets the DART Team Eilish Breen, Theresa Collins and Vincent McDonnell for an update.



National Integrated Rural Transport

Since its inception, Pobal administers the Rural Transport Programme on behalf of the Department of Transport. During 2011, this function was transferred to the National Transport Authority. With this also comes the roll out of a new National Integrated Rural Transport System (NIRTS) which aims to bring all Agencies, Government Departments and groups like IRD Duhallow together to maximize efficiency and value for money in the delivery of transport services

by integrating all transport on a national basis in the future. DART has established its own working group with the relevant stakeholders with a focus on proposals of integration of transport routes in the Duhallow area.



Rockchapel passengers availing of transport twice weekly service



Regular Passenger Ciss Guiney receives a helping hand with her shopping from DART subcontractor Noreen Pike on the Rockchapel to Kanturk route she uses weekly.

Rural Transport Network

The Rural Transport Network was established in March 2009, its aim to establish an independent voice for the ongoing development and mainstreaming of Rural Transport in Ireland. The Network has been working tirelessly under the Chairmanship of IRD Duhallow Board Member Jack Roche to ensure the sustainability of Rural transport going forward. During 2011, the network published a document "Towards Integrated Rural Transport", which identified the potential areas for the Rural Transport Programme to provide a more efficient national public transport system.

Benefit to Duhallow Economy

DART provides employment for 3 administration staff and 3 passenger assistants. Over €2.2 million has been paid to subcontractors 2003, showing the significant contribution DART has played in the local economy. We now subcontract thirteen bus operators who provide employment to 35 drivers. At present DART has a network of over fifty services connecting people to local towns and villages with 75% of these involving door to door pick up. DART has continued to increase the number of younger people using our services with the provision of transport to and from Mallow College as well as weekend services to meet busses accessing Cork and Limerick colleges. DART this year designed signage for all vehicles which has helped to increase awareness and ensures peace of mind for users in the knowledge that it is a DART bus calling to their door. DART was disappointed that the Kanturk Day Care service had to be withdrawn in November after 8 years due to a lack of funding available from the HSE and RTP. We are actively seeking a solution to this setback and are hopeful that the service can resume in the near future.



Jerry Lehane DART subcontractor greets passengers Claire Galvin and Eileen Murphy returning from an afternoon's shopping in Kanturk before they travel home to Freemount.

Complementarity with other IRD Duhallow Programmes

DART continues to provide transport for children from their schools to Newmarket Afterschools. This service ensures parents can access employment opportunities content in the knowledge that their child has been collected and transported safely to the afterschools. DART has expanded its transport to three services for individuals attending COPE Foundation in Mallow and Cork on a weekly basis including a service which transports people to workshops in IRD Duhallow under the REVAMP furniture recycling project. Our eleven evening services allow for both young and old to access social and educational events held in communities. Swimming lessons for primary school children continue to be supported along with social and educational outings.



DART provides a transport to children attending Newmarket Afterschools.

Community Employment Scheme



Paddy O'Connor Supervisor

Paddy has over 11 years experience as CE Supervisor in IRD Duhallow and has a wealth of experience in supporting participants. He has responsibility for supervising the eighteen participants on the scheme as well as liaising with the communities where the CE work is carried out. Part of his role as the supervisor is to identify the needs of

participants in the first instance in terms of training and further development and also the needs of the community. He works closely with the Employment and Training Officer to maximise progression opportunities for participants using the Job centre.

IRD Duhallow's CE Scheme

The economic downturn has unfortunately impacted negatively on Duhallow with high unemployment, especially from the construction sector. Our CE scheme offers part - time work based in a local community setting for 18 people such as Crèche Assistants, Caretakers in local Community Centre's, GAA Pitches and Park Attendants are getting experience for local Town parks and Village Greens Etc. The valuable experience participants get when on C.E in terms of getting back into a work routine and starting to gain confidence cannot be underestimated.



Thomas Healy setting up the soccer equipment in Banteer's Astro Turf Sports Complex.



As part of her duties as CE participant, Elizabeth O'Sullivan coordinates bookings for the LEADER funded Banteer Community Gym.

Our current scheme has eighteen participants who work across the communities of Kilcorney, Boherbue, Ballydaly, Banteer, Lyre, Rathcoole and Dromtariffe.

The Department of Social Protection has taken over responsibility for the CE schemes nationally and a review is being carried out to ascertain how best this scheme can address the needs of the long-term unemployed. In the interim, the material and training budgets have been removed but at least the participant places have been maintained.



Banteer's Glen Theatre stages shows and concerts throughout the year and the community run theatre benefits from the caretaking skills of CE participant David Cotter.

IRD Duhallow has long argued for a stronger focus on the participant and a stronger emphasis on training. Ideally, we would like to see Tús, which is a one-year programme, fulfil the needs of establishing a work routine of confidence-building in participants as well as providing support for community halls, Tidy Towns, playing pitches etc. Those Tús participants on completion of their year in community work could then progress to CE where they could

undergo training or re-training locally as well as getting 19½ hours work experience relevant to their future careers in community projects or community enterprises. We eagerly await the recommendations from the review of CE, by the Department.

Participant Development through Training

Participants on IRD Duhallow's CE Scheme are supported in identifying career choices through Pathfinder which is a computerised system of career guidance based on skills, interests



Ballydaly Hall had an extensive paint job by CE participants.



and experience. It also identifies Specific Training so that they can up-skill and improve their confidence and self-esteem on a personal level and improve their chances of gaining employment.



Michael O'Driscoll & Thomas Doody power washing the walls and paths in Boherbue village. Michael completed his time on CE after 6 years service.

The Specific training completed so far this year includes Pathfinder, Safe pass, Child Development, Communications, Work Experience Course, Early Childhood Education, Play Therapy, Sign Language, Sewing Machine, Spread Sheets, Millinery, Intermediate Computer, Occupational First Aid, Digital TV Aerial Installation, Water meter Installation,

Health and Safety at roadwork's, Refresher First Aid, and Dressmaking, Manual Handling, Machine Safety Awareness and Core Skills Course. All of the courses that are completed by participants are certified through City & Guilds and FETAC.



CE places a strong emphasis on training and two of our participants completed the LEADER funded Water Meter Installation Training & Digital Television Aerial Installation. Jim McPartlan & Declan Doody received their certificates at the graduation ceremony held in May and are pictured with CE Supervisor, Paddy O'Connor.

Bernie O'Rahilly on her experience on IRD Duhallow CE Scheme.

My experience on C.E. was brilliant for me in getting into a work routine, and meeting people through my work placement. The advantages of being able to get training was a big plus as I have now got qualifications in dressmaking and Millinery which I would not be able to if I was not on IRD Duhallow CE Scheme.

I am very grateful to IRD Duhallow and CE for giving me the opportunity to up skill and I have a much better chance of finding work now through having new skills.

Bernie O'Rahilly.

SAOI - Network for Active Retired Groups

The demographic profile of Duhallow shows over 18% of the population as over the age of 65 years. Life expectancy has risen by eight years as people are living longer and healthier lives and projections forecast a further five year increase over the next forty years (Eurostat). With 2012 designated by the European Commission as the 'European Year for Active Ageing', IRD Duhallow's SAOI Network aims to raise awareness and trigger discussion around improving services for older people, enhancing their involvement in the community and removing barriers between generations. Active ageing includes creating more opportunities for older people. IRD Duhallow's LCDP Strategic plan 2011-2013 sets out actions to be implemented to address the needs of older people to enhance their independence. The LEADER strategic plan targets increasing participation by older people and women in all aspects of community life.



YEEHAW!! Meelin Active Retired celebrate Bealtaine in style with a lunch time Mass and variety concert.

IRD Duhallow's SAOI Network

SAOI represents 16 different actively retired groups which IRD Duhallow has established throughout Duhallow and acts as an advocate for the 'Third Age'. SAOI promotes the participation of older people in local decision making processes as well as encouraging and supporting them to avail of the various opportunities that arise. The support infrastructure provided by SAOI plays a central role in the promotion of IRD Duhallow's demand responsive services, such as provided by the Warmer Homes Scheme, the Care and Repair Programme, the Duhallow Area Rural Transport and the rural meals service provided by Duhallow Community Food Service.



Older Learners enjoying an exhibition of their photographs having completed a LEADER funded Photography/ICT course.



Ciorcal Cainte: Irish speakers enjoying a bit of craic agus cúpla focal for Bealtaine in the Old School House, Foilóighigh.

Life Long Learning

IRD Duhallow engages older people in meaningful consultation about the learning needs and supports required through the SAOI Network in order to devise relevant training and skills options for older learners. Photography and Basic IT training has been provided to ensure that older people are fully equipped to embrace technology.



Donoughmore Community Council demonstrate outdoor exercise in a new and different way at the LEADER funded Outdoor Exercise Gym and Walk



Paddy Buckley, Member of Saoi Network regularly volunteers his time to filming community events

Memory Through Media

17 members of the SAOI Network completed a 2 year LEADER funded training project entitled **Memory through Media**. The training aimed to explore the themes of memory and reminiscence through film and online social media. In the first phase the participants worked with the Community Film Director, Lisa Fingleton to produce three short films: 'The Udder Way', 'A Day in the Bog' and the traditional 'Box Iron'. The second phase focused on developing participants skills such as



Camera, Set, Action! Sr. Bernadine McAuliffe and Sr. Carmel McAuliffe await the Saoi Network Film Crew at the grotto erected to St. Mary MacKillopp, the founder of the Australian order St. Joseph of the Sacred Heart.



Maura Walsh, IRD Duhallow, Lisa Fingleton, Community Film Director, Biddy Barrett, Saoi Network, Triona Murphy, IRD Duhallow and Sr. Margaret O'Sullivan, Regional Leader of the Sr.'s of St. Joseph in the Irish Region attending the launch of the Film Sisters: Called to Serve.

online social media including: Facebook, Skype and YouTube. In the final phase, the group produced a film entitled **Sisters: Called to Serve** a short film reveals some stories of the 707 young women who joined the convent, now the James O'Keeffe building, in Newmarket and emigrated as teenagers to Australia, and New Zealand to become the Sisters of St. Josephs.

Reminiscence Training

With the support of LEADER, 24 people completed facilitation training delivered by Reminiscence Ireland. Recalling the past helps older people keep in touch with places, people and events that shaped their lives as well as passing on their knowledge of the past to younger generations. The training has enabled these group leaders to develop more reminiscence groups and activity in their own communities.



Albert Perris, Reminiscence Ireland and Maura Cronin examine some of the memory 'triggers' at the LEADER funded Reminiscence Facilitation Training Course.

Duhallow Bealtaine Festival 2012

SAOI produced an action packed programme of events with a large range of activities for all generations during the month of May. The national theme for the Bealtaine festival was **"What kind of old do you want to be?"** It recognises that older people are not one homogeneous group; they are individuals with widely differing talents, interests and needs. Active Retirement groups throughout Duhallow hosted a variety of events during each day and night of the month of May including: visual arts, craft, film, music, dance, reminiscence and other cultural experiences. All events were open to the public both young and old. SAOI are cognisant of the fact that older people living in residential care often experience reduced community involvement and participation with diminished opportunities to socialise. With the support of IRD Duhallow, Teach Altra, Newmarket, Araglen House, Boherbue and the residents of Clúid Housing, Newmarket were all involved in the Bealtaine Festivities.



Triona Murphy, IRD Duhallow stepping it out in style at the Donoughmore Bealtaine Vintage Fashion Show which took a look at the changing fashion trends over the past 100 years.



Garda John Fuller pours a 'cuppa' at the Bealtaine Traditional Afternoon Tea Dance in the Edel Quinn Hall, Kanturk.

Duhallow Community Food Service



Orlaith Tompkins.

Orlaith Tompkins commenced employment at DCFS in January 2008. She graduated from GMIT with a degree in Hotel and Catering Management. Since then Orlaith has gained a wide range of experience having worked in four and five star hotels, which has left her ideally positioned to develop and expand the services offered at DCFS, to focus on the quality of the products and, expand the range of services offered.

DCFS was established in 1998 to deliver affordable meals on wheels service to the elderly living in isolation in Duhallow. Initially we were producing less than 500 meals per year, in 2011 over 22,000 meals were produced in the unit in Boherbue. The service is primarily available for the elderly, those suffering or recovering from sickness or simply those who find access to the shops difficult through rural isolation. We source all our meat, fish and vegetables locally, bringing customers the very best of produce available, while supporting Duhallow jobs and industries.



Ruth O'Sullivan prepares vegetable for the rural meals service. 22,000 meals were delivered in 2011.



DCFS Driver Paul O'Connor on his way to deliver hot meals throughout the Duhallow region.

The service is not just about delivering nutritious meals; it is about enabling people to maintain their independence at home. Our delivery drivers keep an eye on customers' wellbeing and are a familiar face that visits regularly and reduces rural isolation experienced by many of our elderly population. Neily O Flynn, Transport Supervisor is tasked with the job of ensuring the timely delivery of all meals throughout the Duhallow area. The system currently operates with five routes. Each of the five vehicles is fully equipped with both hot and cold holding equipment to ensure the safe transportation of all meals and to adhere to food hygiene regulations. All of our meals are freshly prepared in our kitchens in Boherbue. Daily operations in the meals kitchen are overseen by supervisor Louise McBride. Hot meals are delivered to those who wish to eat at the time of delivery or chilled to allow the customer to reheat at a later time at their convenience. Meals are also supplied to several local community centres on a weekly basis, this provides the elderly with the opportunity to meet up with friends and enjoy a meal together helping to alleviate loneliness and isolation which is all too common in rural Ireland to-day.



MEP Phil Prendergast visits the meals unit in DCFS, with Manager Orlaith Tompkins, Karl Ryan and Mario De Sa.

The meals are supplied at a reduced cost to our customers, this is made possible through state funding for staffing costs and a grant from the HSE. Despite this most valuable funding there still remains a significant difference between the costs associated in

producing and delivering the meals and the actual combined income from grants and revenue. To maintain and grow the meal service DCFS therefore also engages in commercial activity to ensure a steady stream of income to subsidise the production of the meals.



Tim Leahy and Helen Guiney avail of the home delivery service from DCFS by Denis Murphy who is one of our Tús participants.



Rose Drew the bakery supervisor and her team opens the bakery at 4am producing bread, scones, tarts and fresh cream confectionery to the local retail outlets in the Duhallow area on a daily basis.

Mary O Connell has responsibility for the catering at the Comprehensive School in Boherbue. Each morning of school term freshly prepared baked goods & healthy snacks are taken to the school for sale.

In the past year the outside catering side of the business has seen good growth and as such has proven to be a very valuable revenue stream to support the meals service.



All events are catered for, and advice is offered on menu selection and the type and quantity of food needed for each event. Communion, Confirmation, Birthday parties, and Funeral gatherings are all catered for. There are a large number of options available from finger food, hot and cold fork buffet, salad plates, to seated three course meals.



DCFS provides a variety of confectionery for special occasions including wedding cakes and cupcakes which are becoming increasingly popular.



DCFS is managed by its board of 9 voluntary directors and is a good example of how integration of a number of schemes can have optimum results. The 26 staff is made up of participants from the Community Services Programme which gives the opportunity to long term unemployed including those with mental ill health and disabilities to engage in meaningful work, the Rural Social Scheme providing off farm employment and the new Tús scheme which

affords valuable work experience in cooking, baking and catering, skills that are easily transferable to the labour market once their time on the scheme is complete. We are also indebted to the volunteers who give so generously of their time to assist with deliveries.



Tús participant Breda Curtin with Neily O'Flynn and Orlaith Tompkins at the DCFS stand in the LEADER village at the National Ploughing Championships..

Community Groups in Duhallow

South Eastern Duhallow Communities

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

IRD Duhallow Representatives

John Kelleher & Gerald McSweeney
Denis Withers & John Kirwan
Jeanette O'Connell & Sean Kelly
Tom Meaney & Charlie Drake
Patrick Buckley & Michael Forde
Donie Howard & Mary Kelleher
Eileen Forde & Sheila Crowley
Billy Murphy & Donal Murphy
Clodagh McSweeney & Paudie O'Shea
Eily Buckley & Sean Radley
Eamonn Hurley & Liz Burns
Margaret O'Donovan & Peter Cafferkey
Mamie O'Shea & Tony Horgan

Western Duhallow Communities

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

IRD Duhallow Representatives

Richie O' Connor & Tim Murphy
Siobhan Moynihan & Billy Lane
Margaret Murphy & Marie Casey
Geraldine O'Sullivan & Colette O'Connor
Cormac Collins & Caroline O'Sullivan
Paddy Joe O'Leary & Batt Casey
June Walsh & Ide Fitzgerald
Geraldine O'Connor & Claire Fleming
Eleanor Bourke & Denis McAuliffe
Donal McCarthy & Marie O' Leary
Mike Allen & Breda O Callaghan
Batt O'Callaghan & Jeremiah Murphy
Maureen Fleming & Tim Fitzgerald
Cynthia Daly & Lil Fleming
Liam Doody & Betty Collins
Conon Creedon & Colette Carmody
Annette O'Rielly & Geraldine Cremin
Annette O'Rielly & Geraldine Cremin

North Eastern Duhallow Communities

Castlemagner
Cecilstown
Dromtariffe
Freemount
Kanturk
Kilbrin
Lismire
Newmarket
Tullylease

IRD Duhallow Representatives

James Twohig & Andy Burke
Mary Cooney & William Morrissey
Gerald Murphy & John Linehan
Caroline O'Carroll & Pat Keane
John Fuller & Tommy Mullane
Patrick Drumm & Sinead Lynch
Colmon Jones & Sheila Kearney
Eilish Hourigan & Sean Browne
Angela Hannigan & Mary O'Connell



IRD Duhallow

James O'Keeffe Institute,
Newmarket, Co. Cork, Ireland
Telephone: 00-353-29-60633
Fax: 00-353-29-60694
Email: duhallow@eircom.net

www.irdduhallow.com

Duhallow

THE SPIRIT OF RURAL IRELAND