

Emerald Crystal takes centre stage in the White House on St. Patrick's Day

EMERALD



Walter Walsh and his newly formed Waterford-based company, **Emerald Crystal** were commissioned by the office of an Taoiseach to create a Crystal bowl for the traditional Shamrock presentation to the President of the US, Barack Obama in the White House on St. Patrick's day.

Emerald Crystal is a fine example of what can be achieved when skilled people and community assets are brought together.

When made redundant from Waterford Crystal, Walter Walsh launched his company to preserve and promote hand crafted crystal products. Dunhill Ecopark provided incubation space and services for Emerald Crystal when it was set up in May 2009. It was an immediate success with up to 60% of its product being exported through Cash's of Cork. It relocated to a much bigger unit in an Industrial Estate in Waterford in December 2011. Dunhill Rural Enterprises Ltd are proud to have accommodated and supported the setting up of this successful in-



Wineglass from the Dunhill Collection

digenous company.

Now employing over 11 people including his son and daughter, Walter has built up a team of world renowned artisans, many of whom were ambassadors for Waterford Crystal. When requested to provide the bowl for the traditional presentation of Shamrock to the President of the USA, highly respected designer Martin Croke took the inspired decision to integrate the iconic landscape of Croagh Patrick, the pilgrimage journey made by so many and the spirit of the Irish diaspora across the world.

More information is available at www.emerald.ie and the online sales catalogue sales@emerald.ie



Presentation bowl with detail bottom right



Walter cutting the bowl



Jody Walsh, Joe Casey, Martin Croke, John Coughlan, Walter Walsh, Leona Walsh

Communities Creating Jobs (CCJ) Targets 10 Jobs per Community Countrywide

The CCJ key strategy and brand name since 2011 has highlighted the targeting 10 jobs per community as an inclusive initiative. Every community in the country can join and engage in the new jobs challenge. CCJ is conscious that thousands of communities around the country are excluded from the general economic strategy debate on development and incentives. The CCJ programme with its 10 jobs target will change this position and will invite every single community to join as members and benefit from the expanded set of resources. CCJ as a collaborative added value organisation will work with the local state agencies and private sector to expand the set of available resources. It will also propose to government a number of significant self funding incentives as part of the national support framework which will attract community leaders and organisations into the programme.

CCJ will offer its membership across the regions the opportunity to engage in a collaborative network of resources, free of charge. CCJ will provide isolated mountain communities and densely populated urban communities with the same access to its resources. CCJ will invite and empower the best educated, most business literate, travelled, networked, confident and concerned people in the history of the state in building more self reliant and sustainable communities. It will create a shared learning IT framework of new ideas, solutions, replicable projects, information networks, site visits and enabling tools, free of charge to its network of members. The critical success factor will be the level of interest and determination displayed by community leaders in wanting to create jobs in their communities.

CCJ will stimulate key economic stakeholders in local communities across the regions. They will include community leaders, state agencies, private sector and diaspora. For the first time CCJ will accommodate every community in the country in economic planning and include

- Dunhill in Waterford with Dublin
- Corofin in Galway with Cork
- Gweedore in Donegal with Galway
- Louisburgh in Mayo with Limerick
- Walterstown in Meath with Waterford
- Skibbereen in Cork with Sligo

- Ballymun in Dublin with Belfast

CCJ will impact on the future prosperity of the country. Two thirds of the population in the country live in the regions outside the five main urban centres. It is worth considering that a community of 1,000 people achieving the 10 jobs target can accrue benefits on par with:

- 100 jobs in a town of 10,000 - Tramore
- 200 jobs in a town of 20,000 – Kilkenny
- 500 jobs in a city of 50,000 – Waterford
- 1, 000 jobs in a city of 100,000 – Limerick
- 2,000 jobs in a city of 200,000 – Cork
- 15,000 jobs in a city of 1.5m – Dublin

The economic and social impact of the 10 jobs in a national network of micro-economies will consolidate the sustainability of the indigenous economy. It will foster a new 'can do' entrepreneurial culture. 'Victims of austerity' can become within their own sphere of influence 'volunteer participants' in the national economic recovery programme. A new respect can be developed between active citizens and the democratic institutions of the state. A more interdependent, inclusive and collaborative society will emerge. Ireland will become a much better place in which to invest, work, live and visit and a more attractive location for foreign direct investment.

Findings from an extensive longitudinal action research study (1993-2014) by CCJ secretary indicate that a target of 10 jobs per community in a sharing, supportive and collaborative context is very achievable. Ten jobs per 1,000 people in a national population of 4.5m will achieve 45,000 new jobs over time. A 40% strike rate will achieve 20,000 jobs countrywide over time. The timeline for the achievement of targets will be dependent on the commitment of communities and the amount of support provided by the state including a number of self funding incentives. There is a need for significant incentives capable of attracting communities and community leaders to participate in the new job creation programme. Once they become involved and are committed, we know that with the level of resources available they will succeed. Further information on the required support context and incentives to ensure success will be carried in our Autumn Newsletter. **Dr Senan Cooke, Secretary, Dunhill Rural Enterprises Ltd. senan@dunhillecopark.com**

Seminar on Bioenergy Cooperatives

The South-East Regional Authority, in conjunction with Waterford Energy Bureau, Waterford County Council and the REScoop 20-20-20 project recently hosted a site visit and seminar at Dunhill Eco Park, County Waterford on Bioenergy Cooperatives in Ireland and Experiences from within the EU.

Included in the event was a visit to a 'Carbon Neutral Farm' belonging to Eddie Murphy, Dunhill House, Dunhill, Co. Waterford located a couple of miles from the Eco Park. Innovative features seen at this farm included a 10Kw wind turbine, a 50Kw wood chip boiler, a wood chip supply business, willow energy crops, constructed wetlands and rain water conservation measures.

After the site visit, participants lunched in Dunhill Eco Park.

The seminar which followed was chaired by Brian Connor, Chairman of Waterford Renewable Energy Cooperative and Committee Member of Waterford Forestry Group. The afternoon was informative and enlightening for wood producers or renewable energy suppliers interested in setting up a Bioenergy Cooperative.



There event included an interesting line up of Irish speakers with extensive knowledge and experience in this area including; Tom Kent, Waterford Institute of Technology who spoke about solid biofuel supply chains from Irish forestry; John Casey, Teagasc who discussed the develop-

ment of forest owner groups facilitated by Teagasc; Liam Fleming, Waterford Energy Bureau spoke about Waterford renewable energy cooperative and the uses of forestry resources for generation of heat/electricity and Alex Kelly, Irish Wood Producers Limited outlined the



steps involved in setting up a wood producers group.

The EU experiences in the sphere of Bioenergy Cooperatives were showcased by Erik Christiansen, Middelgrunden who discussed the Danish experience of getting involved in new renewable technology and presented an example of 'biogasification of wood'. Dirk Vansintjan, Ecopower, Belgium will discussed the use of wood pellets as a 100% green and cooperative heat source. Lynda Mitchell, Allenergy, Scotland gave an overview of community and cooperative woodfuel developments in Argyll, Scotland.

Targets for bioenergy deployment in the South-East Region have been set for 2020 and are outlined in the South-East Bioenergy Implementation Plan 2013-2020 prepared and launched by the South-East Regional Authority in 2013 and which can be found at (http://www.sera.ie/media/S_EBioenergyPlan2013.pdf).

The event was co-funded by the South-East Regional Authority under the INTERREG IVB CLIMATLANTIC project (www.climatlanticproject.eu), Waterford Energy Bureau, Waterford County Council and REScoop 20-20-20.

NEW CCJ WEBSITE!!! VISIT IT NOW!!

It has taken us a while but the new CCJ website is now open for business!! **Please do note the new web address—www.ccj.ie.** The website contains both general information on CCJ and a members' area where CCJ resources can be accessed.

Make sure to keep in touch with developments in this area. Contact Senan Cooke Secretary. Email senan@dunhillcopark.com Tel No. 087-2228374 for updates

Update on CCJ Activities

MEMBERSHIP of CCJ

The Board of CCJ has been considering for some time the best way of structuring its membership. CCJ wants to be as open and inclusive as possible so that all of the energy, resources and organisations that exist within the country can be harnessed. However, it also wants to make sure that, over time, every community has an organisation which will become responsible for implementing the CCJ approach.

CCJ has, therefore created two kinds of membership:

Ordinary Members are those community-based organisations which are registered and in good standing with CCJ and which have undertaken the task of overseeing the implementation of the CCJ model at community level. There will be not more than one Ordinary Member per community

Special Members are those organisations and individuals who are committed to and willing to work for the achievement of the principles and purposes of CCJ but are not registered as Ordinary members of CCJ.

CEDRA Report

The much-awaited CEDRA Report was recently launched by the Taoiseach Enda Kenny TD in the presence of the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Phil Hogan, TD, at the Museum of Country Life in Castlebar. Two Board Members of CCJ were present at the launch; Senan Cooke who is a member of the Commission and Ciaran Lynch who carried out some research which contributed to the report.

The Chairman of the Commission Pat Spillane gave an impassioned speech during which he called for all parts of Government to give due thought to the needs of rural areas when making their decisions.

In the course of a wide-ranging speech, the Taoiseach stated that he would chair a Cabinet Sub-Committee which would oversee the implementation of the Commission's recommendations.

The Commission Report and Research Documents can be found at <http://www.ruralireland.ie/>

How to Set Up a CCJ Organisation

1. Identify a group of people or an existing organisation willing to be the local CCJ organisation
2. Meet and adopt the CCJ Constitution or Rules
3. Identify those who are willing, either individually or as a group, to take responsibility for implementing the CCJ model
4. Identify and recruit a cohort of volunteer experts/mentors within the community
5. Meet with the relevant enterprise support agencies
6. Carry out a Community Asset Audit using the CCJ Template
7. Hold an open day/evening or similar event in order to publicise the availability of the CCJ service and to identify potential enterprise promoters
8. Arrange mentor support for potential entrepreneurs
9. Submit news to the CCJ communication hub
10. Attend meetings of CCJ for support and to report progress

Join CCJ Now

€5.00 fee for the unemployed
€10.00 fee for other individuals
€25.00 fee for organisations

To register visit www.ccj.ie or e-mail senan@dunhillecopark.ie

Become a member today
and join the action!!

Endorsements of the Work of CCJ

CCJ has been delighted and encouraged to receive a number of endorsements from people who have been actively involved in the development of communities in Ireland in a variety of ways over the years. The endorsements received to date include the following -

I congratulate your group and CCJ on the preparation of the Global Investment Brief with the aim of attracting direct, foreign investment to the Dunhill and Waterford areas. The work being done in your area to attract interest and investment is worthy of praise as this is certainly the way to create a general awareness of the potential of the area. I wish you every success and I offer my full support in any way possible.

Loyola Hearn

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Government
of Canada

Gouvernement
du Canada

Canada

CCJ- Dunhill Ecopark - US Embassy Officials

I was delighted to visit Dunhill Ecopark on Feb. 4th, 2014 when travelling with U.S. Embassy sponsored U.S. speaker Jonas Singer, a food entrepreneur and co-founder of Union Kitchen in Washington, D.C. We were warmly received by its members and thank them for their generous hospitality.

Best Regards,

**Chris Visosky
Cultural Affairs Specialist
Office of Public Affairs
U.S. Embassy Dublin**

I strongly support CCJ in targeting and facilitating the creation of ten jobs in every community countrywide by identifying and using all the resources available both dormant and official in collaboration with communities, state agencies, private sector and the diaspora.

Brian Cody, Kilkenny Hurling Manager

CCJ/ Dunhill Multi –Education Centre

I completed my Leaving Certificate in 1978 and was not considering further education until Dunhill Multi-Education Centre staff encouraged me to complete a 'Diploma in Social Studies' from UCC in their centre from 2004- 2006. Their student centred learning and welcoming environment and driving 'can do' spirit helped build my capacity and confidence throughout the diploma. On successful completion my personal morale and motivation was sky high and I moved into the Waterford Institute of Technology to achieve a first class honours in Bachelor of Business Studies in 2006-2009 and Masters in Business Administration in 2011-2012. Having been away from formal education for so long (1978- 2004) I had found it very difficult to return to complete the diploma. I owe a massive debt of gratitude to the Dunhill Multi-Education Centre for affording me the opportunity of returning to education. It's pioneering of further education and lifelong learning for adults in the community has to be commended. Over 2,000 adults have successfully completed accredited education programmes since it opened in 2004.

Inspector John McDonald, Garda National Traffic Bureau.

Donal Traynor Talks Money

The UCIT Group stands as one of the largest providers of Social Finance to the community and voluntary sector on the island of Ireland. Having invested some €40 million in over 300 community projects since 2001, the group's recent decision to make their service available to the entire Republic is seen as a welcome new departure in the face of decreasing grants and restricted commercial lending. Associate Director, Donal Traynor, is responsible for development of the group's southern operation and here he provides a brief insight into the area of Social Finance

Why is Social Finance Important / Advantages of Social Finance

Understandably a community enterprise is viewed differently by most if not all investors versus the more conventional, privately owned business. The former is generally run by volunteers and exists in an area of market failure, where neither the Public Sector nor the Private Entrepreneur can justify economic investment. Filling this void, therefore, becomes the responsibility of the Social Finance Provider.

Social Finance will normally see one Community Enterprise lending to another. All repayments and profits are recycled for further lending to likeminded communities with an immediate social impact.

Given that the voluntary ethos within community enterprise is compatible with the origins of the Social Finance provider; personal guarantees are normally not a prerequisite. Indeed the level of unsecured lending, where security is questionable or non-existent, is relatively notable.

Providers of Social Finance understand the risk premium associated with lending to volunteers but don't tend to charge a corresponding rate. The availability of short term bridging finance from the lender, so that the borrower may retrospectively claim grant aid is a useful opportunity for both parties to test mutual compatibility. Likewise, the provision of term loan finance to applicants who might never have had to borrow before, takes this very fact into consideration.

Ask yourself, without Social Finance, what are the options?

Given the mainstream financial institutions' almost cyclical restrictions on lending relative to external market forces, and with some Credit Unions often facing regulatory restrictions on lending to businesses in general, options are limited.

Checklist for Choosing a Social Finance Provider

Talk to the Social Finance Provider directly and informally first. Just because they are lending money doesn't make them any more (or less!) of a community enterprise than your own! Speak to their clients. Remember those with no problems may give glowing reports, but talk also to those who may have run into difficulty and find out how they were/are being facilitated.

Find a compatible personality to your needs among the various providers. Borrowing can be stressful. You are not expected to be an expert. Satisfy yourself that your point of contact understands where you are coming from.

Check the total costs associated with lending such as arrangement fees, legal costs, and rate change implications.

Choose a Social Finance Provider with which you can have a lasting relationship whether or not you have a loan at any given point.

10 tips to simplify the Loan Application Process

Ensure your financial records are in a healthy state or at least on an upward trend. Investors will be reluctant to get involved with a group who are facing into a significant decline.

Disclose ALL matters of significance to the investor from the outset. There are numerous cases where details associated with the group were identified via external research and negatively impacted on a decision.

Ensure the project being proposed is community led rather than some individual's intended legacy to the community, or an idea borne by some entity external to the area. Community based market research will increase confidence among investors.

Ensure all project costs and sources of funding can be verified by way of written quotes/offers/deposit balances.



Respond in timely manner to all requests for information

If you are not incorporated ensure the power to borrow is included within your constitution.

If you are borrowing money as a club you must have trustees,

Where future income includes fundraising, develop a fundraising strategy which is realistic both in the amount, and the time associated with gathering same.

Don't wait until you apply for finance to embark on fundraising START NOW!

Where security is required in lending, ensure your solicitor will (a) provide Certificate of Title in a timely efficient manner, (b) clarify exactly what you can / cannot offer as proposed security, and (c) identify in advance their legal costs

Email: donal@ucitltd.com

www.ucitltd.com

Twitter: @UCIT_Ltd

Facebook: Ulster Community Investment Trust Ltd.

DCU Centre for e-Innovation and Workplace Learning supports CCJ project

The Centre for e-Innovation and Workplace Learning is situated in the heart of Dublin City University (DCU). Its mission is to explore the enabling capacity of digital technologies through the fostering of a reflective and entrepreneurial approach in practitioner-researchers. We encourage practitioners to become more educationally entrepreneurial by taking risks, awakening their creativity and bringing new ideas into action. Through the Action Research Collaboratory (ARC) we are combining our voices with a living global network of action researchers. Our International projects to date include



a Knowledge Partnership with the Global eSchools and Communities Initiative (GeSCI) which will strengthen innovation in educational research and technology enhanced learning, an EU Seventh Framework project, 'Pathway to Inquiry Based Science Education (IBSE)' and the Competitiveness and Innovation project, Inspiring Science – A World of e-Learning Tools and Resources.

We recognise that knowledge and ideas generation can come from a range of contexts. Our research projects are based on an action research approach with a focus on the concerns of practitioners in real-world settings. The practice-based inquiries that are generated by practitioner-researchers are shared with the wider community.

In 2012, the Centre Directors, Dr. Yvonne Crotty and Dr. Margaret Farren spearheaded a unique initiative in collaboration with the Global eSchools and Communities Initiative (GeSCI) which enables African leaders to gain a Graduate Diploma in Leadership Development in ICT and the Knowledge Society from Dublin City University (DCU). 180 leaders from sub-Saharan African countries (Kenya, Zambia, Tanzania, South Africa, Mauritius, Malawi, Botswana, Ethiopia, Uganda, Rwanda, Namibia and Mozambique) graduated from this pioneering new leadership

development programme in July 2013. GeSCI is an NGO based in Kenya and founded by the United Nations ICT Task Force. It assists developing countries to effectively use and integrate ICT for teaching, learning and human skills development. The African leaders who graduated from the programme can now pursue a Masters in Leadership Development in ICT and the Knowledge with DCU. Another cohort of leaders from across the African Continent will commence the Graduate Diploma programme in May 2014.

The three year 'Pathway to Inquiry Based Science Education' (IBSE) successfully ended in December 2013. Over the three years of the project (2011-2013) intensive work was carried out to support IBSE across Europe and beyond. The Centre supported several workshops for teachers in Ireland on using an IBSE approach, including international workshops attended by post-primary teachers from across Ireland and teachers from across the USA. A series of exemplary teaching resources to support IBSE is available at <http://www.pathway-project.eu/>. Through our current involvement in the European Competitiveness Innovation Framework project (2013-2016) 'Inspiring Science Education: A World of eLearning tools and resources', we will bring a unique collection of digital resources to the educational environment.

Secretary of Communities Creating Jobs (CCJ) Committee, Dr. Senan Cooke, is also a board member of the Centre. He has



worked closely with Yvonne and Margaret in DCU's School of Education for many years. In addition to the variety of European workplace projects they manage, Yvonne and Margaret are delighted to champion this new voluntary community enterprise development by providing research assistant Michel McGagh to work exclusively on the CCJ project for a six month period. It is hoped that this contribution from the Centre will help to launch the CCJ organisation and see the creation of 10 jobs in every community by 2020.

Louisburgh Innovative Approach to Fundraising

On this page and the next we share details of an innovative approach to fundraising developed by the Committee of Louisburgh HQ. This might be an approach that could be used by other communities facing the financial difficulties all are experiencing today.



INVITATION

Louisburgh HQ invite you
to become a
Friend of Louisburgh



Louisburgh HQ - What is it?

Louisburgh HQ is not-for-profit organisation which was founded in May 2012 with the aim of supporting community and economic development, to try and revitalise the area. HQ focuses on promoting the area to tourists, and thus encourage businesses to start up and continue in the area and thereby provide continued support for community activities. A group of residents got together in February 2012 with the aim of raising the profile of Louisburgh through the voice of one group. The idea came from a group of seven women, who were members of various community groups and who felt that one main group could have more strength. This group is now comprised of ten main persons plus a core of twenty-plus volunteers.

Appeal to the Friends of Louisburgh

This is a summary of the information provided to the Louisburgh community as part of the appeal for funds

"A feasibility study was carried out on the sustainability of Louisburgh HQ in 2012. The results of this study showed a need, and want, for HQ and its activities in Louisburgh, however the sustainability of our venture is now at risk due to lack of funding. Thanks to the generosity of (many bodies) we have just about managed to keep HQ going... until now!

The opening of Louisburgh HQ main building on the Square: this is now a recognised Fáilte Ireland Visitor Information Point and is the base for all the tourism promotional work and community activity.

We also started work on a community garden at the back of the building We have also facilitated and disseminated information regarding various local activities, including Bike Hire, Foraging walks, fishing trips etc.

Opening of Craft shop: The Duffy building is being used by Mayo craft-workers as an outlet for their goods.

Website: A Website was developed in 2013, making maximum use of a small grant from Leader and a lot of local volunteer time and expertise : www.louisburgh.net It that provides information about local activities and local businesses.

HQ Newsletter: A regular e-newsletter with a subscription of 700 plus. This newsletter is used by community groups and tourism groups and is a source of delight to overseas visitors.

A Facebook presence which promotes local businesses, community groups etc.

A series of events have been added to the Louisburgh calendar

Coca-Cola Thank You Fund: Louisburgh HQ was named as a winner in 2013

Map: produced a map of the local area detailing walks and cycle routes and places of interest.

Raising Profile of Louisburgh, Nationally & Internationally: Wild Atlantic Way; through the efforts of HQ, the tourist profile in the area has been raised- Fáilte Ireland has confirmed that Louisburgh is now on the Wild Atlantic Way.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

In 2012 (operating period from July to December) Louisburgh HQ made a profit of €4,456 which directly contributed towards running costs. 2013, however, saw a loss of €4,484. For the coming year we will need to lean on the local community and local businesses more than ever before. We will continue to try to source funding from government and other sources outside of Louisburgh but we do need your help, Now! We strive to keep running costs to a minimum, but even with all our brilliant volunteers, some outlay is also necessary for the running of various events throughout the year.

We are inviting everyone, residents and visitors alike, to officially become a Friend of Louisburgh and help keep HQ going! In return for your donation, you may avail of our Web site, newsletter and FB to help promote your activities and/or business, you will also have the knowledge and pride, of knowing that you are helping to keep Louisburgh alive and an attractive place to live in or visit.

And of course, you will receive one of our coveted Love Louisburgh window stickers for free! (normally retailing at €1 each!).

Please help us to help all of us in Louisburgh and its surrounding areas! There's too much to lose if we don't all pull together and keep the town alive, vibrant and the great place it is for the future!

For More information see www.louisburgh.net Join us on Facebook www.facebook.com/louisburghHq

Ardagh welcomes Uachtarán na hÉireann... and other events

Presidential Visit



Creative Ardagh would like to thank everyone who helped make the President's visit a success. We are overwhelmed by the generosity of spirit we encountered in the preparation time and on the day. Thank you all so much. Thank you also to the many people who accepted our open invitation to attend. It was great to be able to



have representatives from most of the schools in the county, the various local groups and officials gathered together. We were especially pleased that we could wel-

come back attendees of the wide-ranging classes and events we have held over the last two and a half years.

As the President pointed out on the day everybody has the capacity to be creative and having you all there was a wonderful way to demonstrate this and celebrate the diversity of our patrons: "I believe that art in whatever form it comes, should be made accessible to everyone

and that it should be brought back into the daily lives of everyone." President Higgins also praised the "wide range of initiatives taking place here in the Ardagh Creativity and Heritage Centre and said it was "giving young and old the opportunity to engage in the creativity process and to learn new skills and to be able to talk to people without having to say something earth shatteringly brilliant!"

On the day the President toured the building meeting students and tutors from various classes in the art room, admiring the handmade



products of the Creative Longford group in the craft gallery and meeting with members of Ardagh Moydow Reaching Out, Engage Longford and public representatives in the Heritage exhibition area. He also signed our visitors' book which also contains the signatures of previous Presidents and other visitors from all over the world.

Outside President Higgins was greeted by a guard of honour including local cubs, brownies and guides and school children from around the county. Brendan Farrell handed over the ceremonial Tree Planting Spade for the planting of a weeping willow by the President and he was then entertained by the moving dance by Orla McCarthy, ballerina accompanied by the wonderful harpist Mary Smyth before moving into the marquee to give his excellent speech.

And even more from Ardagh!!

Leprechaun and Fairy Treasure Hunt



The exciting events on Friday were followed by a more informal day at Creative Ardagh as we hosted a fun, family

also got creative themselves in the art room. Hopefully we'll have many more days like this!

We attach links to our webpage and our Facebook page for more photos and information on us.

Thank you and Best Regards,

Ann and Annette.

<http://www.creativeardagh.com>

<http://www.facebook.com/creativeardagh>

P.S. Lily-May, Longford's youngest social entrepreneur is now 2! She also appears in photos on our page!

event, the Leprechaun and Fairy Treasure Hunt. Our little leprechaun and fairy visitors created some great St. Patrick's Day cards and an amazing rainbow before the big leprechaun ran away with the pot of gold and we all had to search the woods to find it. Lots of other fairies and leprechauns who dwell in the woods revealed themselves on the day to help with the search.



Creative Longford craft fair



On Sunday we finished off the weekend with the first ever Creative Longford craft fair. It was great to

see many locals return for the second or third time over the weekend and there seemed to be a great buzz in the marquee all day with lots of high quality handmade crafts finding new homes with the visitors. We also had a great face-painter in action and many of the attendees



Positive Funding Stories from Northern Ireland

The Ulster Community Investment Trust (UCIT) committed £7m of loan finance to community enterprise organisations in 2013, it was announced today.

Founded in 1995, UCIT provides community and social enterprises throughout Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland with access to affordable loans. As a registered charity, all profits generated by UCIT are recycled for reinvestment into the social sector.



One recent recipient of such funding is **Bangor Football Club**. The club received a £250,000 loan to assist with the installation of a 3G pitch at its home ground at Clandeboy Park. The club has been operating since 1918 and has been at its current location since 1935.

It is planned that the improved facilities will enable the club to establish a Soccer Academy, allow for greater use by the wider community, and help deliver financial sustainability. Additional grant funding for the project was provided by Sport NI.

Commenting on the funding, Trevor Best, Chairman of Bangor Football Club (pictured left), said: "These new facilities are an important part of securing our long-term financial future and strengthening the connection between the club and its local community. UCIT's support

has been instrumental in making this happen."

Harry McDaid, Chief Executive of UCIT (pictured left), said: "With a well-structured plan to bring club and community together, we're proud to be working with Bangor FC. This 3G pitch will help to enhance the club's facilities and allow it connect with a wider base of youth organisations. "I'm confident that 2014 will see many more such opportunities for us to make a difference."

UCIT) has also committed a £300k loan to a local social enterprise. It will enable **Foyle Women's Aid** to attend to crucial refurbishment work at one of its premises.

Constituted in 1976 and incorporated in 1981, Foyle Women's Aid has been the primary provider of accommodation and support to women and children who have suffered the effects of domestic abuse in the Derry region. Since its formation, the organisation has supported over 10,000 women and children.

Foyle Women's Aid has undertaken the extensive refurbishment of Ashleywood House and Mews, a large Victorian property and Courtyard on the outskirts of Derry. The property was previously gifted to the organisation by the Department of Health and Social Services. The Courtyard has been developed to contain 15 secure housing units for victims of domestic abuse.

Marie Brown, Director, Foyle Women's Aid (pictured right) said: "We are delighted to be working with UCIT. This loan will allow us to significantly improve and update our premises which was a real cause for concern.

"The improvements to Ashleywood House will certainly make a difference to those women and children we support. The main house will be developed as a training and counselling centre and provide staff office accommodation. It will ensure a more rounded atmosphere and give us a chance to reach out to more sufferers of domestic abuse."

Phelim Sharvin, Associate Director, UCIT (pictured right) said: "Foyle Women's Aid is a superb organisation and UCIT are pleased to be able to support the development of facilities and the successful delivery of essential support services. We are supportive of the social economy sector and stand ready to support social enterprises that are growing whilst continuing to deliver a positive social impact in the local community".



Corporate Governance Training for Social Enterprises in Ballyhoura Country

“Social Enterprises are business models set up to tackle social, economic or environmental issues. While they are driven primarily by social and/or environmental motives, they engage in trading or commercial activities to pursue these objectives and produce social and community gain.

Forfas Report; Social Enterprise in Ireland; Sectoral Opportunities and Policy Issues

Ballyhoura Development Ltd is the Local Development Company covering the geographic area of South and East Limerick and North East Cork. The company undertook a review in 2012 of the estimated value of social enterprises across the area and found that there is in excess of 120 community based businesses in the area. These businesses receive income from commercial trading, public contract delivery, national and local funding programmes and fundraising. The companies employ approximately 1,500 people and have a total turnover of approximately €50 million per annum. The companies are engaged in a wide range of social and economic sectors from animal welfare to voluntary housing and youth cafes.

Ballyhoura Development supports a number of social enterprises in their area; this support ranges from participation on the Boards of the social enterprises to facilitation, mentoring and training supports. To support information sharing, peer learning and to provide supports to the Social Economy sector, Ballyhoura Development established the Ballyhoura Social Economy Network. Through this Network and the broader engagement with social enterprises, a common training need emerged – the need for information and supports in the area of Corporate Governance. Many social enterprises felt that where staff were employed, the staff member (s) had an excellent knowledge and experience in the operational area of the business but that they and/ or the volunteers, including Directors, were not aware of the business’s governance requirements.

In response to this need, Ballyhoura Development requested interested parties to tender their interest in delivering 6 core training modules to social enterprises. Following an assessment of tenders, the Carmichael Centre was selected to deliver the training programme. As a pilot initiative, it was also decided to introduce the Managers and Directors of Social Enterprises to the concept and value of occupational standards for management practice, particularly those occupational standards developed by the Institute for Managers of Community and Voluntary Organisations in Ireland Ltd. (IMCV). Ballyhoura Development, in partnership with The Carmichael Centre and the Institute for Managers of Community & Volun-

tary Organisations (IMCV), devised a bespoke training programme for social enterprises within the Ballyhoura area, focusing on all aspects of corporate governance.

Based on expressions of interests, places were allocated and the course was then scheduled based on the needs of the participants. A key element of the course was a need for buy in from both the staff member and from Directors of each social enterprise with a requirement for both groups to participate in the training.

The training programme covered six core elements of corporate governance for social enterprises:

Establishing a Social Enterprise, Corporate Governance, Financial Planning & Management, Human Resources Management, Strategy Development & Business Planning and Directing a Social Enterprise

The overall feedback from the course was very positive with significant learning, as evidenced by the following quotes:

“Effective management and understanding of governance issues surrounds all organisations none more so than those in the Social Economy Sector. This course provided a balance on all issues from HR to Finance to Business Planning and Development. The course overall was delivered by knowledgeable and expert tutors and enhanced with open and frank discussions from fellow participants.” ***Participant, Ms Elaine Butler, Manager, Croom Community Development Association***

“Our business now employs over 250. The course provided us with an opportunity to learn about the key governance issues with similar groups and to see how these issues apply to us. We also received practical information and governance tools that will facilitate us in supporting the development of the business.” ***Participant, Ms Colette Ryan, General Manager, CareBright***

"Delivering corporate governance training to social enterprises in the Ballyhoura Region was both stimulating and enjoyable. The future looks bright for social enterprise development in Ballyhoura!" ***Ms Caroline Egan, Managing Director, CramdenTECH Ltd., Carmichael Centre Trainer***

“Social Enterprises, whether they develop due to a social need or a market failure, the businesses, which can make a surplus, can achieve social change. The social economy sector offers significant opportunities for the future both in terms of service/product provision and employment creation. However, to support the sustainable development of this sector, a range of supports are required including Corporate Governance supports. We would like to complement the Carmichael Centre and its tutors, the IMCV and all of the participants for making the course a success. Perhaps there is an opportunity here for the establishment of a new CCJ branch.”

Ms Carmel Fox, Chief Executive, Ballyhoura Development

West Cork News

Feed the World

Well not quite yet, but the now permanent Fresh from West Cork stall in the prestigious English Market, Cork city, supplies 125 scrumptious food products, many of them award winning, from over 40 kitchens around West Cork. Over 50 people came on board to fund this initiative and endorse the efforts of Carbery Enterprise Group member, Walter Ryan Purcell, who is brimming with innovative ideas.

€10 covers the cost of a strong box from the Fresh from West Cork stall and includes next day delivery service anywhere in the 32 counties.



You can purchase and fill the box with up to 30 kg of food from any stall in the English Market.

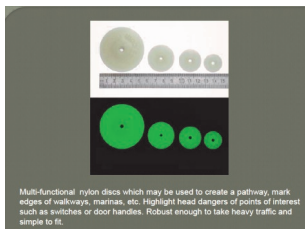
Watch this space as coming on line is a website where Fresh from West Cork products will be listed so anyone anywhere can avail of the wonderful products this region is renowned for.

In addition an approved food preparation unit will be on line in the coming months where producers/bakers/cooks can prepare, cook or concoct delicious delicacies which will all be listed on the upcoming website.

New Enterprises in West Cork

Glowroute™

Glowroute™ may well be the next life saving device which will become as standard as smoke alarms. Glowroute™ is a fail-safe pathway lighting your workplace and your home. Glowroute™ is a cost-effective fail safe lighting system. It self-charges through either daylight or electric light is PVC-free, green friendly as no batteries or power is required and is easily recycled. It is available in anti-microbial versions for production labs etc. It comes in strips and in discs. Mark Buckley of Kinsale is the force behind this new product on the Irish market. More information is available on www.glowroute.com or contact Mark at 087 797 5280.



Liss Ard Estate

Liss Ard Estate, Skibbereen, offers Ireland's first Well Centre. The project, Well at Liss Ard, has run as a pilot project over the first three months of this year. The 200 acre estate provides hotel accommodation on a luxurious scale amid areas of outstanding beauty. Liss Ard Estate is home of Ireland's Sky Gar-

den an impressive giant earth and stone sculpture, The Crater, by James Turrell. Information on 028 4000.

Nyhan Fencing

Nyhan Fencing, was formed recently by local couple Bernie and Con Nyhan of Drinagh. The husband and wife team built their premises themselves without funding from any agency. They provide pressurised fencing posts and stakes with a 15 year guarantee. This is a proven protection for construction and outdoor timbers with advanced preservative, based on copper triazole technology. They may be contacted on 087 0902220.

The Treehouse

Two local mums, looking for entertainment for their children especially during inclement weather have opened The Treehouse on the Marsh Road, Skibbereen. This is an indoor play area for children and includes a cafe and comfortable seating for parents whilst children expend excess energy in a safe environment. Further information from www.thetreehouse.ie or telephone 028 48264.



Irish Social Enterprise Conference February 2014 in Red Cow Hotel



“ISEC 14 Collision of Good People & Good Ideas”

There was great interest and take up for the social enterprise conference hosted in collaboration

by Irish Social Enterprise Network (ISEN) and DCU/Ryan Academy. Fully booked! A waiting list! A venue change to accommodate extra places! All the ingredients to ensure a buzzy conference full of ideas, positivity and networking opportunities. The conference was delivered in a relaxed format by the host for the day Chris Gordon and the morning seemed to fly by. Sara Burgess the Community Interest Company (CIC) Regulator UK gave a fantastic rendition on how CIC's work in the UK and how they are regulated which had a profound effect on the conference. This was fed back through the conference survey with 97% of delegates urging ISEN to pursue legislation on CIC's in Ireland. Fraser Kelly from Social Enterprise Scotland gave a passionate and entertaining



insight in the growth of social enterprises in Scotland and the positive impact and job creation that has entailed within Scottish communities.

In the afternoon, during the focus groups, DCU/Ryan Academy students were attached and were scribing away. They have provided us with an enormous amount of research data and consultation that will go a long way to shape the ISEN strategy and policy documentation going forward. We ask – you give – we create!

This was a fantastic, entertaining and informative day, that will provide and on going roadmap for social enterprise development in Ireland. So get in touch, get involved and watch out for the social enterprise events hosted by ISEN / DCU Ryan Academy throughout the year! This will be advertised on our social media



2014 Events

Event	Day	Date	Time	Location
Conference	Monday	10th Feb	10.00 - 17.00	Red Cow Moran Hotel
Speaker series	Friday	21st March	08.30 - 10.00	DCU Ryan Academy
SE' session	Wednesday	30th April	19.00 - late	City Centre
Speaker series	Friday	23rd May	08.30 - 10.00	City Centre
SE' session	Thursday	19th June	19.00 - late	City Centre
Speaker series	Friday	18th July	08.30 - 10.00	DCU Ryan Academy
SE' session	Thursday	14th Aug	19.00 - late	City Centre
Speaker series	Friday	19th Sept	08.30 - 10.00	DCU Ryan Academy
SE' session	Thursday	16th Oct	19.00 - late	City Centre
Speaker series	Friday	21st Nov	08.30 - 10.00	DCU Ryan Academy
Xmas Event	Thursday	18th Dec	19.00 - late	City Centre

Exodus From Rural Areas—Teagasc Report:

One in five rural areas has seen a drop in population as young people and families either move to urban areas or emigration since start of the recession. Nearly 21,500 left 546 rural areas or 10% of total population between '91'

11 but has been most dramatic with 9,000 leaving since '06. Reduction in population means less spending power remaining in the area busi-

nesses close and also lack of a local workforce in the event of new companies considering setting up in an area.

Traditionally more women than men migrated from rural areas at times of recession but this trend has changed. Now, two men for every woman leave which is partly due to the types and numbers of jobs available.

In recent years, 100 Garda stations, 200 bank branches and 1,300 pubs have closed in rural areas.

CCJ Goes International

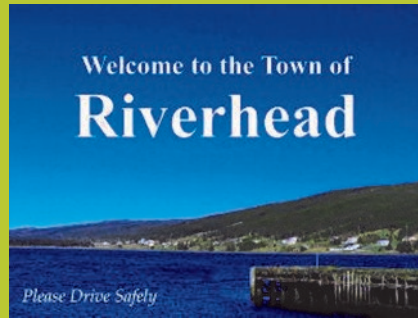
Our Newfoundland Member

As Mayor of the Town of Riverhead and Chairperson of The Father Val Power Centre, it is with great pleasure that I extend greetings on behalf of my community, Riverhead, St. Mary's Bay, NL. I have had the great pleasure of visiting South East Ireland on three separate occasions through the Festival of the Sea. I instantly fell in love with the home of my ancestors and its beautiful people. During my first visit I discovered that, although the Celtic Tiger there was evident in the cities, the out lining rural areas like Dunhill were struggling. Of course this economic struggle was everywhere during my second and third trip. It has been interesting to read about the efforts being made by all of you over the past few years and now especially to create community jobs.

I have been Chairperson of The Father Val Power Committee for a number of years now. Our mandate has been to promote educational, environmental, recreational and economic opportunities for all age groups in our community of 100+ people and within our region. We have been successful to some degree in all areas. Our Centre has a beautiful fitness area with over \$80,000 worth of exercise equipment. It has a computer centre with 8 computers on line. Here people can come to do job searches, fill out applications on line, do resumes, fax and or copy papers, etc. We offer Lunch and Learn sessions there on various topics and host workshops. Outside we have a basketball court that can be

used after school and on weekends. We also have a Community Garden, Green House and a Green Depot – where people bring their recyclables. The monies we get from

our Green Depot cover the costs of two part time employees and pays for our utilities, our insurance and maintenance costs.



Next to our Centre we have our Municipal Complex. This had been a beautiful primary school which closed in 2000 due to declining enrolment. After lobbying for two years we were successful in getting ownership of this building for \$1. Today this building houses our green depot, our town clerk's office, a board room for meetings, a fireman's room for their meetings, a heated storage room for our fire trucks, a kitchen and bathroom facility.

Just out the road we have an amazing Legion club and veterans' Interpretation Centre. A number of weekly and monthly activities occur here. For the past 12 years our Centre has been partnering with the Legion to have an amazing Run For Freedom. Competitive runners from different parts of our province as well as recreational walkers come to be part of this. As each person crosses the finish line he/she is given a beautiful medal especially designed for this occasion. They are then treated to an amazing lunch which is followed by a 10 minute solemn ceremony where we all take time to remember those young Newfoundlanders who lost their lives in the famous Battle of

Beaumont Hamel. There are a number of prize draws and the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners are announced for each age category. The top male and female athlete then gets to hold a beautiful plaque designed by a local artist. (The plaque has an etching of the soldiers in the trenches and a runner going toward the soldier holding the torch of freedom.) Their names get engraved on this plaque later. This run is gaining momentum and we are now hoping to make it a Signature Event. Our goal is to bring 1000 runners/walkers to this event by 2016—100th anniversary of this battle. We hope to build it in to our annual festival. This will really putting us on the map and will generate some good revenues.



I am also pleased to report that I am part of a very exciting project that involves the whole development of Holyrood Pond. Our group recently had a full day re-

Newfoundland Continued

This will be a massive project with great potential for tourism and job creation. There is a land mass of over 55 acres and a pond that is 23 miles long, 11/2 miles wide, and in places 50 fathoms' deep. It contains over 30 different species of fish and has a mixture of salt and fresh water. At one end of the pond there is a beautiful, long beach where whales come very close to the shore.

OUR FUTURE

St. Mary's Bay has been struggling economically for many years. The collapse of our cod fishery has resulted in most of our young people moving away after high school and not returning. Our urban regions are now booming with the spin offs from the Oil Industry while we are rapidly becoming communities of seniors. If we don't soon find good work opportunities to attract young families to our region we will cease to exist. As the newly elected Mayor of Riverhead I see



challenges in providing essential services –affordable drinking water, road up keep, fire protection and job creation. Our small population and extremely small business tax revenues are making it very difficult to keep operating. I am a big believer in regionalization and will promote this concept as much as possible.

I see good possibilities in the tourism and health care sector for our future. However, this will require good thinking, careful planning, adequate infrastructure and investments from the private and public sector. When I think of places like Dunhill and Waterford I see my Region and our City –St. John's. I am a big believer of networking and I sincerely hope that good things will come from us working together on both sides of the pond. Thus, I feel it is important to become a member of your CCJ group. Hopefully we can learn from each other and experience success with creating good, sustainable jobs.

Play your part with ConnectIreland

ConnectIreland is founded on the cornerstone of communities and individuals reaching out, making connections and creating jobs. Now your community is being asked to play its part!

ConnectIreland is asking people just like you in active, enthusiastic communities to keep your eyes and ears open, pass on information and boost job creation and prospects right across the country.

Maybe you know someone working in or running a company abroad? If that firm is considering expanding into Europe, simply tell ConnectIreland. They'll work together with the IDA and start discussions with that company - explain why they should locate here in Ireland.

If the firm locates here, you, the 'connector' receive a government reward and also the pride and honour of being able to help Ireland. The reward is €1,500 per job created. You choose what you do with it. You might like to keep it, spend it on your family, make a donation to charity or plough all or part back into your community, local club or cause. It's totally up to you.

Project Manager with ConnectIreland Joanna Murphy (pictured right) is visiting communities throughout Ireland as part of their Community Action Plan. "We've teamed up with local authorities and other local agencies and are hosting hour-long information sessions up and down the country. The reaction and enthusiasm has been phenomenal and the communities we've visited really want to play their part.

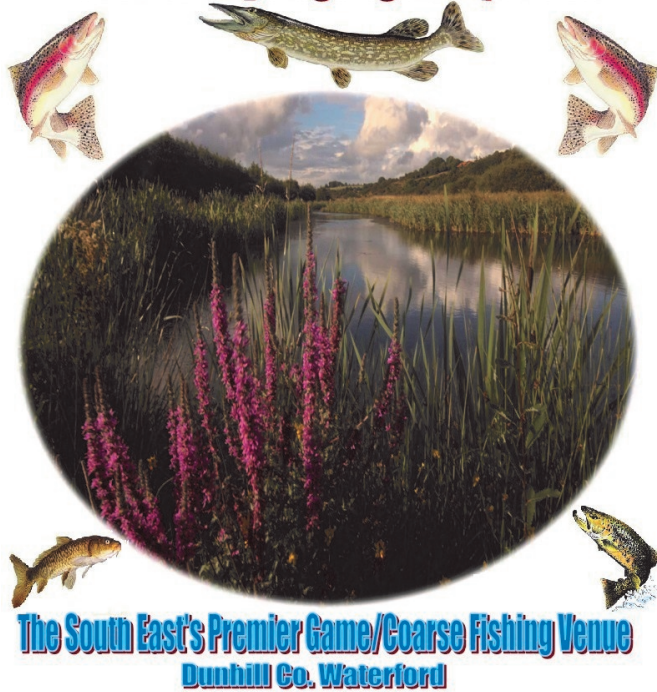


"ConnectIreland has worked with people all over the world and together, we have brought 14 projects and 326 jobs to communities all over Ireland and to counties which include Carlow, Galway and Meath, Longford, Cork and Dublin. That number continues to grow daily "

To play your part, go online to www.connectireland.com. Why not register as a connector and join the drive to get Ireland back to work!

Anne Valley Angling—Three new jobs for Dunhill

Anne Valley Angling Complex Ltd



www.annevalleyac.com, email: enquiries@annevalleyac.com
Phone: 051 396260

Dunhill Rural Enterprises Ltd has set for itself a 10 jobs target for 2014, 2015 and 2016. On 1st March a new Anne Valley Angling Complex was officially opened creating 3 new jobs. The angling complex is a private business located within a voluntary community enterprise project. From the early 1990s six farmers made available 60 acres of wetlands upon which a 3 kilometre walk-

way and wildlife sanctuary was developed. The new angling complex was located on this site. The farmers leased the land for the walkway and facilitated the angling complex which runs parallel on the opposite side of the river (stream) and ponds.

Two ex Talk –Talk (company in Waterford Industrial Estate that closed in 2011) workers with 30 years angling experience drew down significant EU Globalisation Funds in developing the facility. Currently they employ one other person, three in total. A strong promotional campaign is underway nationally and internationally through website, fishing magazines and other mediums. Their business plan targets 5,000 visiting anglers within 5 years and 7 employees. The new business will help consolidate and expand local services and encourage new jobs to come on stream. It will also encourage the setting up of new tourism service enterprises. The angling business has received a warm welcome to the area and has got the three year job creation target of DREL off the ground.

The Anne Valley is located in a prime tourism area of Co Waterford, just four miles from Tramore and ten miles from Waterford City. The valley is located in the Copper Coast Geopark which stretches for 17km from Tramore to Stradbally which is close to Dungarvan Town. The coastline scenery with the Comeragh Mountains in the background is spectacular.

Spread the word among your friends—in particular those interested in angling, walking and adventure or just having a break away from it all.



North –South Leader Inter-territorial Project 2010-2013

Photo includes Northern Ireland Leader Inter-territorial Delegation to Dunhill on Friday 11th April. Representatives from Broughshane, Ballymena, Loughgiel, Kilrea and Ballycarry were in attendance. This programme involves five communities from Co Antrim and six communities from Co Waterford in pilot development projects. The Waterford communities include Dunhill, Passage East, Cappoquin, Ballymacarbry, Lismore and Tallow.

Union Kitchen

Jonas Singer & Cullen Gilchrist (pictured below), two US based social entrepreneurs and co-owners of Union Kitchen, Washington DC visited Dunhill Ecopark recently to study community-based enterprise and in particular artisan food outlets.



This is a short synopsis of their story but is one that could easily be replicated as a community/social enterprise here in Ireland-

They both had worked in a number of different areas prior to them deciding to open a cafe. They approached the owner of their local bar which was only open for business during the night and after agreement with him began operating a cafe/coffee shop during the day called "The Blind Dog Cafe".

After being open a few months, the lack of commercial kitchen space in Washington DC was very apparent and the pair started a plan to open a shared commercial kitchen space which they could rent out to people involved in food preparation/processing. Small artisan food producers very often do not have the means to invest in the standard of kitchens that are required to satisfy the many regulations that apply in their industry.

They found a large warehouse in a run down part of the city and secured it at a reasonable rent.

This was two years ago and they now have 55 businesses operating from the site. This they called 'Union Kitchen'

The owners look after everything connected with the Kitchen and Warehouse. Health & Safety, Hygiene, Waste and Administration. They provide their tenants with references to accountants and legal advisers, people who they have worked with and can trust. They can approach large retail chains on behalf of their members and get much better business terms than if small individual wholesalers tried to do this on their own.

This development strategy has proven to be very effective as it facilitates local producers to work together, providing them with greater influence in determining price and developing markets along with sharing their overheads.

They received start-up grants from the city council and we were told that the city is very supportive still of their food incubator model. They are involved in work programmes with local government where the agency pays for the first six months of employment.

When asked how they developed such good working relationships with their local council, we were told that it began from them having a good relationship with specific people in the council prior to them setting up. They were trusted and the council could see that they were going about their business in an ethical manner.



How the DSP can help

The Department of Social Protection (DSP) can assist you, free of charge with many aspects of your recruitment/employment needs. More comprehensive and in-depth information on the schemes and incentives can be accessed through the links below:

Jobs Ireland – a vacancy advertising service and support resource when employers are recruiting, giving them access to skilled, job ready candidates. Vacancies can be advertised on our website www.jobsireland.ie or by calling our Jobs Ireland service at 1800 611116; and through our nationwide network of offices.

JobBridge - The National Internship Scheme and work placement programmes.



JobsPlus - an employer incentive

which encourages and rewards employers who offer employment opportunities to the long term unemployed. JobsPlus is a simple scheme for employers, offering up to €10,000 for a qualifying recruit, payable on a monthly basis over a two year period.

EmployAbility services, including wage subsidies and grants, for employing people with a disability.

Support to help you advertise a vacancy in Europe and gain access to Job Seekers across Europe. <https://ec.europa.eu/eures/> (**EURES**).

Should you require any further information or wish to discuss the options available, contact a member of Intreo/ Employment Services and attached is the contact list for your region. <http://www.welfare.ie/en/Pages/Employer-Engagement-Contact-List.aspx>

Gillian Hussey CCJ Patron

Communities Creating Jobs are delighted to announce retired judge Gillian Hussey as patron of the organisation. Gillian served with distinction as a District Court Judge sitting in Kilmainham District Court for many years. She retired in 2002 but has continued to be actively involved many organisations since. While serving as a judge Gillian carried out her duties with empathy and fairness in particular towards the disadvantaged, always ready to help them improve their situation. The following are some of the activities and organisations with which she has been engaged:

- A rehabilitation residential centre for girls in Newbridge which is now part of Tiglin Centre in Ashford, Co. Wicklow, a residential centre for both men and women.
- ACJRD (Association of Criminal Justice Research and Development) which was established in 1996 as Irish Association for the Study of Delinquency and of which she was a founder member.
- Chair of the Commission for Clerical Sexual Abuse set up by the Catholic Hierarchy to investigate abuse in the 32 Counties. She stepped down in December 2002 when the Minister for Justice set up the Commission of Investigation into Clerical Abuse in the Archdiocese of Dublin.
- She has served on the Refugee Appeals Tribunal.
- Currently Chairperson of the Disciplinary Committee of the Irish Amateur Boxing association and has been for many years.
- Patron, Director and Volunteer of the Crime Victims Helpline.
- Patron to St. James' Camino Network, in Enfield, Co. Meath for the past 10 years.
- A Director of SWICN (South West Inner City Network) with which she worked for many years.

The Board of Communities Creating Jobs is privileged that Gillian has accepted the invitation to act as a Patron of the organisation as she is very committed to social justice, inclusion and equality of opportunity, key values that drive CCJ.

Gillian Hussey CCJ Patron

In accepting the position of Patron, Gillian stated—"I am honoured to be asked to be associated with the Communities Creating Jobs organisation.

I feel it is very worthwhile and hopefully will encourage people from various backgrounds with skills and resources to collaborate in providing new employment opportunities and fulfilment for those who are unemployed and those who are considering involuntary emigration."

LIT Enterprise Development News

LIT continues its enterprise development work in a variety of ways, assisting both social and other enterprises to become established and grow.

Its Social Enterprise Start programme which was delivered in association with North Tipperary LEADER Partnership is now nearing completion with the final field-trips remaining to be completed.

The Institute continues to provide a variety of enterprise training and development programmes in its centres in Moylish and Limerick City Centre and its partnership centres in Croom, Newcastlewest and Thurles.

The new Enterprise, Research and Development Centre being built in Clonmel in association with South Tipperary County Council is due to be occupied in September. This will provide another excellent resource in the South-East through which enterprise and development can be assisted through the skills and resources of the Institute.

The Institute continues to provide resources and assistance to Community Creating Jobs through the assignment of personnel time as well as locations for meetings and other events and it is delighted with the progress that is being made towards the implementation of its plans.