



SOUTH KERRY DEVELOPMENT
PARTNERSHIP LTD

South Kerry Development Partnership Ltd

Forewords



Joan Burton TD
Minister, Department of
Social Protection

I WANT to congratulate South Kerry Development Partnership on this excellent supplement, which showcases the very best that local projects involved in Tús and the Rural Social Scheme have to offer.

As Tánaiste and Minister for Social Protection, my number one priority is to help people who have lost their job or who are out of work for long periods to get back to work.

Employment in community projects is at the heart of that, offering jobseekers quality experience and training, while supporting social inclusion in every town, village and parish in Ireland. My Department will provide funding of €373million this year for these Community Employment schemes.

SKDP is responsible for delivering Tús and Rural Social Scheme placements to up to 240 people in South Kerry who are either long term unemployed or under employed.

The Tús initiative is a very valuable community work placement scheme that offers participants useful work-related skills, helping to make that first step back to employment while playing a part in their local community. Activities involved under the scheme include work on tidy town's teams, landscaping, developing amenities, and working in IT and administration.

The Rural Social Schemes offers financial support and work skills to small farmers, with activities including maintenance of walking routes, energy conservation programmes, and village enhancement projects.

I invite the reader to discover in these pages some of the very valuable projects that exist in South Kerry. Finally, once again I congratulate South Kerry Development Partnership, and the host organisations mentioned here, for the contribution they have made in providing opportunities for people.

Best wishes
& continued
success to
**South Kerry
Development
Partnership**
from
Listry GAA Club



Continued success
to
the SKDP in the
outstanding work
it is doing in local
communities
from



Noel Spillane
Chief Executive Officer
Sheila Casey
Chairperson

WE are delighted to support this supplement marking 10 years of the Rural Social Scheme in South Kerry.

In the ten years since its introduction in South Kerry, the Rural Social Scheme has had a profound impact on community & voluntary activity in the area, supporting a wide range of community, environmental, recreation, social, cultural and community enterprise projects. The launch of the Tus Programme in 2011 was a recognition by Government of the on-going important role that both Local Development Companies like South Kerry Development Partnership Ltd & local Communities can play in the area of labour market activation. This supplement highlights a sample of projects supported under both schemes.

The concept behind the Rural Social Scheme was a simple one. Provide an income support for small farmers and fishermen, who in return would provide 19.5 hours work per week to the community. The Rural Social Scheme thereby enabled many small holders to remain farming whilst providing the wider community with the benefits of the skills and expertise that many of these smallholder s possess. Small holders are self-employed farmers whose existence provides the countryside with the biodiversity and green landscape, on the back of which our tourism and food industries are marketed. In the absence of the Rural Social Scheme, the future of many small family farms in South Kerry would be seriously threatened.

South Kerry saw the withdrawal of many public services with the impact of the economic downturn particularly felt in many rural areas. The Rural Social Scheme since 2004 and the Tus Programme since 2011 have played a crucial role in maintaining and indeed enhancing the community provision of many of these services to the rural population and has provided vital support in protecting the community and social fabric of South Kerry.

We want to take this opportunity to thank South Kerry Development Partnership Ltd board members, the management & staff of the SKDP Rural Social/Tus Schemes for making the schemes the success that they are in South Kerry. A dedicated working Group within South Kerry Development Partnership Ltd has provided oversight responsibility for the operation of both schemes and we want to thank the members of that working group, particularly its Chairman, fellow board member Sean O'Suilleabhain.

We look forward to another ten years of Rural Social Scheme and Tus Programme activity in South Kerry underpinned by the community led bottom up approach of South Kerry Development Partnership Ltd.



Joseph McCrohan
RSS and TUS Manager

THIS South Kerry Development Partnership Ltd, Rural Social Scheme (RSS) and Tús community work placement initiative (Tús) supplement has been put together to show what community volunteers, supervisors and participants can achieve.

Whilst it was not possible to cover every project that the participants work on, the supplement gives a good cross section of the type of work the participants do every week of the year. It also gives a good geographical spread from Glenflesk to Valentia Island and from Bonane to Ballyfinnane.

The cost of this supplement was entirely covered by the adverts from community groups and local business contained on these pages. South Kerry Development Partnership Ltd is thoroughly grateful to these groups and we encourage you to support the local businesses involved here.

The first RSS participant began with SKDP in late 2004 with the first Tús participants starting in 2011. While both schemes were put in place for very different reasons, that have the following in common; they provide a labour resource for community groups, income support for participants, improve social interaction within communities and many people in the South Kerry Development Partnership Ltd area benefit from them.

I encourage people to read the supplement and ask the question, could my community benefit from the RSS and Tús? If the answers is 'yes' then please contact me with your ideas at 066 9472724. South Kerry Development Partnership Ltd, working with communities, can make South Kerry an even better place to live, work, rear a family and grow old in. Without community groups putting forward work plans it would not be possible to deliver the level of work or activity that the RSS and Tús Supervisors and participants cover. Community life has changed in recent time, people have immigrated, people work longer hours further from home, traditional industries have declined, families are smaller, people are living longer, and standards are higher and so on. Community services and infrastructure must change to meet these new needs. South Kerry Development Partnership Ltd is there to meet the new needs and continue to deliver on existing commitments.

I would like to thank all the RSS and Tus Supervisors past and present for their hard work in keeping this very important community support up and running week in and week out for over 10 years now, in the case of the RSS. I would like to thank Sean O'Suilleabhain, Chairman of the Community Services working group and the working group members who give of their time voluntarily to oversee the operation of both schemes from the beginning. I would also like to thank the board of South Kerry Development Partnership Ltd, who have overall governance responsibility for the operation of both schemes. I extend sympathies to the families of RSS and Tus participants who have passed on. We look forward to continuing our work with community volunteers in the years ahead.

Full RSS and Tus annual report and blank work plan sheets can be found at www.southkerry.ie

Continued Success & Best Wishes to
South Kerry Development Partnership Rural Social Scheme
and thank you for all the great work carried out
in Shronahiree & Cummer Burial Grounds Glencar
from

**GLENCAR BURIAL
GROUNDS COMMITTEE**



SOUTH KERRY DEVELOPMENT
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South Kerry Development Partnership Ltd

MID-KERRY

RSS Supervisors

Mary Clifford T. 087 980 0774 E. mmclifford@skdp.net
Rosarie McGillicuddy T. 087 778 2133 E. rmorrison@skdp.net

TUS Supervisors

Donal Foley T. 087 741 5361 E. dfoley@skdp.net



Eileen McGillicuddy, Tracey Spencer, Sean O'Sullivan (back from left) Pat Rochfort, Terence Houlihan, Tom O'Sullivan, Donal Foley, John Knightly, Frank Heffernan Department of Social protection at Killorglin Archives.

Killorglin Archive Society

THE Killorglin Archive Society formed at the start of 2012 and after less than four years it is a community initiative that is going strong.

"The aim of the society is to collect, collate and archive old photos, recordings and film that capture the essence of life in Killorglin over the last century," said Terence Houlihan, one of the Society's committee members.

By doing so, they hope to enhance the knowledge of the history and folklore of the parish. To date, they have scanned between 15,000 and 16,000 photos. "We ask people to send in their photos, which we scan and give back to them," Terence said. "We've had a great response from as far away as the UK and America."

The committee is a collection of fourteen volunteers from different ages and backgrounds who have been supported in their endeavours by participants on the TUS scheme.

"Without them, we wouldn't be able to function. They work in the 'engine room,'" Terence said, referring to the Society's office where all of the painstaking work takes place.

Over the last three years, Killorglin Archive Society has had the assistance of five people from TUS and Terence proudly named them all. This year, the TUS participant has a great talent for calligraphy (the art of decorative handwriting)

and is producing a water colour map of Killorglin that will include routes for local walks. Previous TUS participants have brought other skills that were very specific to the Society's mission, to the delight of the committee.

"We've had a great range of talent here. It shows the diversity of people coming in from TUS. I can't emphasise enough how important they've been to the project, with the extent and range of the skills that they've brought."

Since its inception, Killorglin Archive Society has accomplished a lot: they've produced a CD of local songs, created a newsletter, recorded the life stories of elders in the parish, participated in the 2013 Pride of Place awards and last November, presented some of their work at the Killorglin-London reunion "to give the diaspora a taste of old Killorglin," Terence said.

The TUS program has brought an eclectic mix of people into the picture, including locals and those who have moved to and settled in Killorglin.

"We've been very lucky with Donal Foley, TUS supervisor, who knows his history and knows Killorglin," Terence said. "He has sent good people our way. Both he and the TUS participants have been very good to us and we'd like to thank them for their contribution."

Continued Success and Best Wishes to South Kerry Development Partnership and look forward to working with you in the future from

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Ballyfinnane Community Association.

Ballyfinnane Community Association

IN Ballyfinnane, a small village in mid-Kerry, is a community hall which was built over thirty years ago and since that time has been at the heart of village life. "Apart from the school and The Shanty Pub, there would be nothing in Ballyfinnane without the community hall. There would be no place for the people to come together," said Eileen Daly, Chairperson of the Community Hall Association.

The Hall is the focal point for many activities, including the summer barbeque that takes place in June, the table quiz in February and

Whist on Tuesday nights, not to mention the regular speech, drama, yoga, dancing and music classes that prove popular with the locals. The local national school celebrated its 50th anniversary on May 15th and frequently uses the Hall, which is conveniently located right next door.

"The Association has a very vibrant committee who meet once a month or so," Eileen said. "They're all fantastic workers and interested in community activities." The Committee avails of the services of the Rural Social Scheme partici-

pants who are responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the hall and grounds.

"It is very important to us in Ballyfinnane to keep the hall in good nick, and without the participants from the RSS who provide the care and maintenance work it would be very difficult for the committee to keep the hall at its current high standard. It would not be open and we could not run it without the RSS. Rosarie McGillicuddy, the supervisor, is most helpful and most approachable," Eileen said.

In addition to their ongoing duties, the

participants have also played a vital part in the success of the Tour de Ballyfinnane, the recent cycling event to raise funds for the primary school.

The hall served as the base camp for the cyclists and the RSS participants had it in great order for the big event. "The place wouldn't have looked as well as it did if it hadn't been for the workers," said Eileen. "It looked beautiful, thanks to them. We want to keep them as long as we can - they're part of the team. We are so grateful to them and I hope they realise that."

Best Wishes to Rural Social Scheme from

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Mid Kerry Killorglin Active Retirement

FOUNDED in 1996, the Mid-Kerry (Killorglin) Active Retirement Group is a vibrant group of senior ladies - and a few men - who meet every Friday from 2-4pm at the Tom O'Donnell Centre on Market Street in the heart of the town.

Anita Galvin is the Chairperson of the group, and its forty three members enjoy these regular get togethers. They organise a range of activities including quizzes, bingo, exercise classes and special guest speakers like the public health nurse who advises them on how to look after themselves. "We also have musicians who come and entertain us and we have a sing along. And yes, we do sing along!" she said.

For the last four or five years, members of the group have benefited from the skills of local RSS participants who have visited their homes to carry out maintenance work and do odd jobs like cleaning windows, power-washing paths, painting, light gardening, chopping wood, grass cutting, weeding flower beds and maintaining hedges. "They're very good to us and when we tell them what we need they will try to accommodate us," Anita

said. "We're so appreciative of the participants of the RSS as the members are unable to do this work themselves. It's great for people who have no one to do a job for them because they are living on their own. They rely on the RSS scheme."

Individuals who qualify to receive assistance from the RSS scheme can make requests to the scheme supervisor, Mary Clifford, who will coordinate the participants. Members of the Killorglin Active Retirement Group who request a visit to their home to get work done need not be concerned about safety, as arrangements are always made in advance. "Mary Clifford will ring you up and tell you the day and time participants will be calling," said Anita. "Killorglin is a small community so we know the men on the RSS scheme - the majority of them are local."

According to Anita, the most important aspect of having the help of the RSS participants is that they are reliable. "It's very handy to know that they will be there at certain times, especially during the spring when so many bits and pieces need to be done. We're very happy with them," she said.



View of Valentia Lighthouse.

Milltown Child Care Centre

MILLTOWN Childcare Centre (also known as Naiolann Solais) first opened its doors in 2003 to provide affordable childcare in a quality setting, inclusive of all members of the community.

Nowadays, it has 150 children on its register aged between three months and twelve years, so it caters for babies, 'wobblers', toddlers, pre-schoolers, Montessori and after-school kids.

"We have seventy children with us at any one time," said Katie Clarke, Manager of the Centre and a native of Milltown. "We have twenty-five full and part time staff and we include the RSS participants in that count." The Centre encompasses six rooms for the children, a staff room, kitchen, toilets and a large play area outside and the RSS participants play a central role

in maintaining the place to a high standard. "We applied for HIQA accreditation last year and we got extra people from the scheme to

help us do up the place. If you have something coming up, you just give Rosarie, the supervisor, a shout and she sends in the troops," Katie said, adding that HIQA did grant the accreditation. The Rural Social Scheme has been working at Milltown Childcare Centre for several years and currently they have three RSS participants. "They are invaluable to us," said Katie. "They really are a staffing resource. One of the participants works in the kitchen and produces over seventy dinners a day." This participant is also in charge of preparing snacks, cleaning, record-keeping and ensuring that food is handled up to the standards set out by the Health and Safety Authority.

Another participant keeps the place spick and span and the Centre also has someone to maintain the outside of the facility by cutting grass, pruning shrubs, painting railings and doing some light gardening.

"We absolutely rely on these people," Katie said. "Having them also means that we can keep overheads down so in turn we are able to keep our fees at an affordable level and that benefits the whole community."



Mary O'Shea, Anne Sheehan, Kitty Costello, Eileen McGillicuddy, Madge Gill, Kathleen Griffin, Mona Moroney (back from left) John Griffin, Anita Galvin, Frank Heffernan Department of Social Protection, Kathleen Voller, John Joe Sweeney, Marie Griffin, Liam O'Connor RSS participant, Chris O'Connor Founder member, Noreen Lyons, Margaret Gill, Matt Murphy RSS participant, Connie Sheehan, Sean O'Sullivan SKDP Board member, John West RSS participant and Mary Clifford RSS Supervisor at Active Retired group in Killorglin.

To our local supervisors
Rosarie & Mary and our four
rural social scheme workers
who do an outstanding job in
Ardmoniel and Dromavalla
Graveyards from

**KILLORGLIN
GRAVEYARDS
COMMITTEE**



South Kerry Development Partnership Ltd

Killorglin Graveyard Committee

THERE are two graveyards in Killorglin that have one thing in common: a dedicated group of people who are in charge of their care. For over twenty years, Dromvalla on the Tralee road, and Ardmoniel at the top of Langford Street, have been managed by the Killorglin Graveyard Committee and they are delighted that their mission to keep these sacred sites respectfully maintained has been supported by a great team of RSS participants for more than seven years.

“Every day, from early morning until dark, someone is visiting the graveyards. People take care of their own individual grave sites, but the work that the RSS participants carry out – the general upkeep of the graveyards which includes grass cutting and strimming, hedge maintenance and planting of shrubs - allows visitors to enter into a serene atmosphere and feel that the people

belonging to them are being looked after,” said Billy Browne, Treasurer of the committee.

Two RSS participants are assigned to each graveyard, but if there is a big job to be done, the supervisor, Rosarie McGillicuddy, will allocate one or two extra people to help out. “These participants are so dedicated and the work schedule they are given is carried out to the highest standard.” Billy said.

“Without the lads in the RSS scheme,” he continued, “there is no way that the volunteers would have the time to do the work that these men do. The skill set of these participants is such that, nine times out of ten, they’ll have a problem solved before the committee is even aware of it. The graveyards are a credit to the lads; if you had them in your garden, you’d be delighted with them – they’re that good.”



Frank Heffernan Department of Social Protection, Billy Browne, Pat Donovan, Joe McCrohan SKDP, Mike McKenna, Rosarie McGillicuddy, Sean O'Sullivan, Pat Sweeney and Timmy Sheahan at Ardmoniel Graveyard, Killorglin.



Brian Sugrue, Con O'Sullivan, Kevin and Patricia Griffin, Mary Clifford, Mary O'Connor, Pat O'Shea, Muireann O'Donovan (back from left) Peter O'Sullivan, John O'Connor and Michael Burke of the Glenbeigh/Glencar GAA Club and the Glenbeigh Sports Hall Committee.

Glenbeigh/Glencar GAA Club

THERE'S no doubt that the people of Glenbeigh/Glencar have been enthusiastic football fans for a long time as the GAA Club can trace its origins as far back as 1840. These days, it has 190 members who range in age from the under sixes to senior level so the Club sees a lot of activity all the year round.

Luckily, they have had the services of RSS participants for several years now, who are in charge of maintaining the pitch and the dressing rooms. One particular RSS participant has been with them from the day one and has proved to be indispensable to them. “He’s a true and true GAA man – a football fanatic,” said Aidan Roche, Chairman of the Club.

“He is our main man and he will always help us at the drop of a hat.”

Aidan recalled that around five years ago, their pitch was badly in need of some attention and that it was the RSS participants who cared for it so well that they now consider it one of the best in Kerry.

The RSS participants are essential to keep the Club running because it is a volunteer-run organisation and they would not be able to do all the work themselves. “We are all working during the day and to get these jobs done it would mean coming in after work and sometimes at short notice. We’ve done it previously, and it’s not feasible,” Aidan said.

As well as maintaining the pitch, strimming hedges and keeping the dressing rooms clean and in good working order, the RSS team lines the pitch before every senior game. It involves measuring out the area and using a special machine to paint the lines and the RSS lads have perfected the art. “Anything we need done, they do it straight away with no issues and their supervisor, Mary Clifford, is excellent,” Aidan said. “For example, we built a stand last year and the RSS participants laid the blocks for us so we had no labour costs.”

“Between them the RSS participants maintain the whole place. They are definitely a huge asset to the Club.”

Best Wishes to
South Kerry Development Partnership from

KEEL COMMUNITY COUNCIL

We would like to thank the local Rural Scheme workers for all their assistance on the very popular UPHILL, DOWNHILL LOOP WALK and other projects in the area.



South Kerry Development Partnership Ltd

Ireland's oldest festival The Puck Fair



Mary Ita Ladden RSS, Rosarie McGillicuddy RSS Supervisor, Anne O'Shea, Martina Moriarty, Ita Cotter, Johnny Lenihan RSS and Bridget Foley RSS at Naoliann Solais, Milltown.

WITH a history that dates back more than four hundred years, Puck Fair is probably the oldest festival in the country. It has attained iconic status and put the town of Killorglin on the map, not least for its very unique tradition of mounting a male goat high on a pedestal in the centre of town and declaring him King for three days!

“There are various stories as to how and why such a festival came about, but its real origins are lost in the mists of time,” said local man, Pat Healy. One may think that placing the goat high on his perch is the biggest job for the Puck Fair committee to organise, but Pat will tell you a different story. “The logistics are the biggest headache we have,” he said, and he should know – he is the committee member who is responsible for ensuring that the festival runs safely and smoothly for its entire duration.

The RSS participants are involved in carrying out a variety of tasks before and after the three day festival. This work involves erecting extensive signage throughout the

town and beyond, informing the public where they can park - including designated areas for people with disabilities - advertising trading areas where stalls are located and indicating any changes in traffic flow. “We change the town completely, closing off the centre of the town for the festival,” said Pat. “And the RSS lads do that for us.” For the last seven years, the festival has welcomed the help of the participants from the RSS scheme, particularly in the four days leading up to the festival and the three days afterwards.

“We have a storage area with 350 crowd control barriers and maybe 380 water barrels that are used to create traffic lines. The RSS participants get all these out and into position,” Pat said, “and after the festival they spend three days taking it all down again. It’s a lot of work.”

All told, he estimated that the RSS participants invest a total of 600 man hours in the festival. “They are hours that we, as a small volunteer committee, could not do and

if we had to pay for such work, we couldn’t afford it. So what we’ve been able to do with those lads we couldn’t do otherwise because it would financially destroy us.”

The committee is lucky that, by and large, it has been the same team of men who have come to their aid each year. “They’re local lads and they get a kick out of being involved in RSS and they take pride in their town. They’re with us so long that they need no instruction from us. They’re like an arm of the committee at this stage,” Pat said.

From day one, Pat found the participants and supervisor, Mary Clifford, to be exceptionally helpful and he puts this down to the fact that they live locally and have a personal interest and desire to make Puck Fair a success. “These lads work with other community groups as well as Puck, and they are interested in working for all of them because they are local themselves.”

They know that if they’re helping their community, they’re helping themselves in the long run.”



Members of Puck Fair committee Linda Murphy, Linda Corkery, Blathnaid Whelan, Declan Mangan, Christine Healy, Sean Coffey, Edel Murphy (centre row from left) Laura Healy, Sean McGrath, Brenda Nash, Pat Cahill, Anne Mangan, Geraldine O'Sullivan (back from left) Sinead Pigott, David Pigott, Pat Healy, Evan Mangan, Declan Falvey and Donal O'Reilly.