

South Kerry Development Partnership Ltd



SOUTH KERRY DEVELOPMENT
PARTNERSHIP LTD.



John Cronin, Paddy Casey, Eugene Dennehy, Jimmy O'Sullivan, Rod Robinson, Tim O'Shea, James McGillicuddy and Frank Sugrue of the Old Hatchery Dromid.

Waterville Lakes and Rivers Trust

WATERVILLE Lakes and Rivers Trust is a not-for-profit organisation that is concerned with the conservation and enhancement of the rivers, lakes and streams and their flora and fauna for which the region is so well known.

The group was established in 2009 by a group of dedicated volunteers who decided it was time to revitalise the project following its first formation in the 1980s. Now, the Trust is fully up and running and focused on its mission to enhance the stock of wild Atlantic salmon and sea trout in the Waterville system to encourage sustainable angling,

to protect and conserve the natural environment and to educate local children and adults about the importance of such a rich treasure right on their doorstep.

Every year, Inland Fisheries help the Trust to net ten hen and ten cock salmon and bring them to the hatchery - a specially built facility where the fish are artificially spawned. The eggs are hatched and the young salmon grow to the point where they can be tagged and released to continue their life cycle in the wild. "Because of the threat of aquaculture, it's important to help mitigate against

the loss of salmon smolts as they migrate to sea," said Rod Robinson, who volunteers with the Trust. "We estimate that this year, 20% of the returning salmon caught on Lough Currane originated in the hatchery."

Central to the success of this project is the upkeep of the fishery - the various fresh water locations where the salmon and sea trout come to breed. Both salmon and sea trout spawn in the gravelly parts of the rivers and streams which need to be clean and accessible in order to attract them. For several years now, RSS participants have

conserved and maintained the salmon's natural environment and have also become highly-skilled at helping with the management of the hatchery. "The guys who work with us are first class," said Rod, who explained that there are four people from the RSS scheme who have been with the Trust for quite some time. "They clear up any blockages in the rivers and streams, revive the gravel, help maintain the hatchery and assist in the office. It's very important that people are sensitive to conservation issues and the RSS boys probably know more about it all at this stage, than we do."



– Congratulations –
to Caherciveen Rural Social Scheme
on 10 Years of providing employment and
services to the local area and wish them
continued success in the future.

We would like to take this opportunity
to thank supervisor David O Neill
and all the team who did a fantastic job
on the Painting Project at Fertha Drive.



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Tom Fitzgerald, Noreen O'Donoghue, Caroline Roddy, Michael O'Driscoll, Chris McGuire, Micheal O'Shea, Mary Courranje and Kitty King of the Cahersiveen Social Services.

Cahirciveen Social Services work

CAHIRCIVEEN Social Services (CSS) is a not-for-profit community organisation that provides live-in accommodation and a day care centre for the elderly in the area.

Residents are housed in a number of individual apartments and houses and although they live independently, they can call on the Cahirciveen Social Services for assistance if they do not have relatives to help them.

Residents come to the day centre for their meals, which are partly subsidised by the HSE. Volunteers from the CSS also deliver meals on wheels and transport senior citizens to and from the day centre where they can participate in various activities.

"We organise day trips three or four times a year to places like Kenmare, Dingle or Bunratty," said Chris Maguire, Secretary of CSS.

The CSS is run by volunteers and relies on fundraising to keep its doors open so it is delighted to avail of the skills of RSS participants who

help them to maintain the properties by doing light carpentry work, painting, repairs and gardening.

"We have a garden with potatoes and other vegetables and we use the produce to make meals on wheels," Chris said. "The RSS participants set and look after all of it and they dig and deliver the fresh vegetables to the day care centre. They're excellent workers and we avail of their skills, I can tell you. The RSS scheme supplements the work that needs to be done here and that we're not qualified to do."

A big advantage of having the RSS participants on board is the Cahirciveen Social Services can call on different people, depending on the nature of the job. "We can call on the right people for the right job and to do what needs to be done," Chris said. "They're vital to us. Years ago, people had time to volunteer but now they have to work more, so without the scheme we definitely wouldn't function."



Micheal O'Shea and Brendan O'Sullivan stonemasons in Cahersiveen.

Best Wishes & Continued Success to
South Kerry Development Partnership from

VALENTIA ISLAND HERITAGE MUSEUM



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Kerry Mental Health Association

KERRY Mental Health Association (KMHA) has two aims: to promote positive mental health and to support people with mental health issues - and their carers - by identifying their needs and advocating for their rights.

Part of this mission includes the provision of social housing and KMHA, which is run completely by volunteers, coordinates the funding, acquisition and management of suitable accommodation. "We are registered as an approved housing body," said Dan O'Connor, who is Housing Manager for all of the properties throughout Kerry.

There are nine branches of the KMHA throughout the county and its South Kerry branches receive support from the South Kerry Development Partnership. Volunteers in each of the branches liaise with service providers and service users in their particular area to identify who is in need of housing. "Our people on the ground are the lifeblood of the Association," said Dan.

Another invaluable resource to the Association is the team of RSS participants who help to maintain the numerous properties under management of the KMHA. "When we identify an issue or a need in a house, the RSS scheme provides the manpower we need, be it for general maintenance, decorating, painting or cutting lawns," Dan said, "and this service is available to all branches of KMHA under the jurisdiction represented by the SKDP. They're a fantastic group to work with - the participants and the supervisors."

The KMHA has availed of the RSS scheme for the last three years or so and Dan said that he has always found the workmanship to be of a very high standard. Having the scheme provides the Association with a valuable and skilled pool of people, which helps them to keep the costs down at a time when funds are extremely tight.

There is another, less tangible benefit to having access to RSS participants, which Dan believes is also very important - the interaction between them and the house residents. "It plays a huge role in breaking down stigmas because they interact with tenants, so it increases their understanding of mental health issues," he said.



Dan O'Connor Housing Manager Kerry Mental Health Association, Dermot Lynch, Christy O'Connell, Donie O'Sullivan SKDP Board member, Debbie McGill Iveragh Mental Health committee and Tom Fitzgerald Supervisor at the Kerry Mental Health House in Cahersiveen.



Lisa Murphy and Ger Moynihan SKDP with Patrick O'Donoghue and Pat O'Brien in the Kerry Mental Health Clubhouse, Killarney (formerly Ross Products).

Best wishes & continued success to

South Kerry Development Partnership from Listry Community Council

Thanks for all the support and look forward to working with you again.

Best Wishes to the South Kerry Development Partnership

from everyone at
IRD Waterville & Tidy Towns
IRD Centre, Waterville
Ph: (066) 9474366



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KILLARNEY

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Kerry Life Skills

KERRY Life Skills is a charity that aims to help young people develop effective skills for living and to foster positive mental health. A registered charity with close ties to the HSE, Kerry Life Skills first began in Killarney in 2001 when members of Killarney Town Council became concerned about the misuse of drugs and alcohol by young people in the area.

Since then, the organisation has expanded its breadth of programs to help young people, aged between four and 19 years, to address the pressures and challenges of everyday living to include topics such as self esteem, developing resilience, health, nutrition, peer dynamics, bullying and social media issues.

In 2004, Kerry Life Skills launched its mobile classroom unit to deliver their programs specifically to primary school children all over the county.

"The primary programs we roll out are based on The Life Education program that started in Australia in 1979 and is now internationally recognized in 15 countries," said Chris Barrow, Project Manager at Kerry Life Skills. At post primary level, the organisation takes a different approach and tailors its programs to the needs

of a particular school, delivering them in the classroom or at a youth-based community centre.

Kerry Life Skills has three paid staff and a board of management that consists entirely of volunteers, so they are delighted to have participants from the RSS scheme to help them with the logistics of spreading their positive message to children.

"We've been involved with the scheme since 2005, specifically with the mobile classroom unit. The RSS participants prepare the unit, transport it to a school site and set up it safely. Actually, it's a very skilled job, getting it there," said Chris.

"This is a specific skill and frankly, without them, we'd be very hard pushed to deliver the service. The RSS team comes in as needed and they are extremely flexible and helpful. There is a good nucleus of guys that are definitely part of our team. What they do is integral to delivering our service."

Over the years, Kerry Life Skills has built up a great working relationship with the RSS supervisors. "They understand what we need and are aware of the nuances in what we do," Chris said. "It's an absolutely brilliant scheme and the difference they've made to us is immeasurable."



Timmy Moriarty, Margaret O'Shea Chairperson, Joanne O'Shea Secretary, Joe McCrohan SKDP, Frank Heffernan Department of Social Protection (back from left) Donal Foley, Michael Long, Ben Courtney, Paut Griffin, Neilie O'Sullivan, Padraic O'Sullivan and John O'Sullivan of the Beaufort Tidy Towns.

Beaufort Tidy Towns

THE picturesque village of Beaufort, outside Killarney, is notable for the proliferation of old landlord estates in its midst that lend a unique feel and character to this beautiful spot. A few years ago, a small group of residents got together and decided to form a Tidy Towns committee to make the most of what the village had to offer.

"We wanted to bring the village to a new level," said Padruig O'Sullivan, Vice Chairperson of the committee.

"Initially, we did things like hanging flower baskets over the bridge as you come into the village, installing outside benches, making flowerbeds and making sure the roadsides were litter free."

They also decided to install a Tree Trail that nature lovers can follow around the town, and beyond, to discover all about the range of trees that grow there, such as the Spanish Chestnut. There's an information board at the beginning of the trail and information booklets are also available.

While all these developments are important, it is the stone walls - remnants of the old estates - that are Beaufort's main feature. "We have four TUS participants to help us restore the old walls

around the village," said Padruig. The TUS participants are all from mid-Kerry area. "They are all very dedicated to the craft of stonemasonry," he added. "There is no way that volunteers could do this stonework. It's very specialised and the walls would be nothing without the TUS participants."

The Tidy Towns recently acquired the building that housed the former Garda station and the TUS team has been busy helping out here also. On the grounds is a polytunnel where they grow vegetables and flowers and have built a compost system. "We have a meals on wheels service in the area so we grow a certain amount of produce in the Garda station grounds and bring it up to Beaufort Parish Hall, our local community centre, to use as fresh ingredients for the dinners. Any food waste is then brought back to the compost block," Padruig said.

As volunteers, the Tidy Towns committee is particularly grateful for the help of the TUS scheme. "People can only do so much voluntary work because they have day jobs and families to look after," said Padruig. "The TUS participants are obliging and helpful and Donal Foley, the scheme supervisor, takes on all our requests and always does his best to help us."

Best Wishes to South Kerry Development Partnership from

FOLEY'S



Fossa, Killarney

Tel: 064 6633907

Opening Hours: Mon-Sun 7.00am-10.30pm



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Joe McCrohan SKDP, Eugene Doherty, Peter Moynihan, ger Moynihan SKDP, Liam McGuire and Mike Fuller Killarney Rugby Club preparing the grounds at Killarney Rugby Club.

Killarney Rugby Club

"RUGBY is a game for all ages, shapes and sizes, from the light and fast to the big and strong. It's about having a mixture of physiques on the playing field and this is what attracts people to it," said Mike Fuller, President of Killarney Rugby Football Club.

An enthusiastic player himself back in the day, Mike now leads a strong club that has 220 members of which almost half are juvenile players.

The present iteration of the Club was formed in 1983 and was of no fixed above for a while before the Club finally leased a spot fifteen years ago in Ballydribben, near Fitzgerald Stadium.

"Over the years, we have used TUS workers to help us maintain the pitch and our temporary clubhouse," said Mike. "They keep the dressing rooms clean, make sure

that there is gas for the showers, mend fences and do other light maintenance work."

In 2012, the Club purchased 13.5 acres of land in the Caher section of Aghadoo and outside contractors have already begun to develop the site. "There was a lot of bogland and we had to completely reclaim the land," Mike said.

The Club is still based in Ballydribben but now with the new site to manage, the committee is delighted to have the skillset that the TUS participants can bring to the project. They have been involved in the creation of an exercise trail that is being built inside the perimeter of the site that will not only serve as a training facility for members, but will also be open to the public in due course.

"These scheme participants are vital to

us," said Mike. "They have particular skills like blocklaying, stonework and carpentry that they can apply to our project that we, as volunteers, simply don't know how to do. They have been a lifeline for us."

With plans to build a state-of-the-art Club house, Killarney FRC predicts a bright future where they hope their new facility will become a national and international attraction for "rugby tourism."

"We're like every other community sports group - we're on a tight budget and we couldn't possibly cover the cost of the work that the TUS lads do. They've been fantastic and enthusiastic, down to the last man," Mike said.

"These work schemes are invaluable to a Club like us. We have a strong future because of the help of the SKDP."



Joe McCrohan SKDP, Eugene Doherty, Peter Moynihan, Ger Moynihan SKDP, Liam McGuire and Mike Fuller, preparing the grounds at Killarney Rugby Club.



Cllr
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'Killarney looking good' statue

ON Mission Road in Killarney, at the Jarvey entrance, is a large slab of Kilkenny stone mounted on a metal stand.

Carved beautifully into the stone's face is the figure of a man on horseback – an image that depicts the story of an Irish Chieftain, O'Donoghue, who as the legend goes, rises up from Lough Leane every year on May Day. Beside this stone there is a 'book', a standalone piece of art that gives the full story behind the myth.

The artwork also represents something else: it is a testament not only to the great things that can happen when community groups work together but to the importance of harnessing the talents of TUS participants for the betterment of a whole town.

About three years ago, Laetitia Mangin, a French sculptor and TUS participant, came to the attention of her supervisor for her outstanding skills as an artist. "Her work was spectacular," said Lisa Murphy, TUS supervisor. "It goes to show that people on this scheme are so talented and the SKDP is there to really promote any opportunities for participants to use and develop their skills."

Michael O'Leary, formerly Killarney Town Clerk was involved in setting up the project. "When we became aware of Laetitia's skills we felt we should avail of the opportunity to create a significant work of art for Killarney," he said. "It also gave Laetitia the opportunity to work in her profession.

"Many of the TUS participants we used in the past were extremely talented but we weren't expecting a sculptor to be involved in the scheme. It just shows the breadth of the TUS scheme in terms of the talented people in it."

The Town Council banded together with the Tidy Towns group known as 'Killarney Looking Good', the Killarney Arts Committee, Kerry Mental Health Association, Killarney Asylum Seekers Initiative (KASI) and the local Men's Shed who all played their part in facilitating the project.

"It's important for people to embrace the opportunity that TUS provides them," said Lisa. "This piece of beautiful art is measurable, quantifiable and there for all to see. This is an example of a talent nurtured and the benefit was not just for one particular group – the piece is there for the whole town to enjoy."



Paul Griffin and Ben Courtney learning the art and trade of Stone Mason from Mike Long at Beaufort.



Cllr John Joe Culloty Mayor of Kilarney Municiple, Paul Neary Kerry County Council Killarney, Lisa Murphy and Joe McCrohan SKDP at the Stone Carving on Mission Road, Killarney.

Glenflesk GAA Club history and archives project

IT all began in 2011 when members of the Glenflesk GAA Club became aware that a Parish Newsletter had existed from the 1970s until the 1990s and in them was contained a lot of information about the Club. But they also contained a fascinating insight into the history, culture and folklore of the parish that included poems, songs, sketches and news bulletins.

The members soon realised that they had a valuable record of their area and duly created the The History and Archives Project. "When the SKDP gave us their support, we were able to expand the project out beyond the GAA and into the parish," said Aine Ni Shuilleabhain, a member of the Club. Based in Fossa Community Hall, the scheme participants typed up the entire content of the newsletters.

But the work didn't stop there. The discovery of the newsletters generated a renewed interest in the history of the parish and the SKDP provided participants who had the skills to create a database of all the information that had been gathered. They arranged it in such a way that it now forms the basis for chapters in a book,

which is a future dream of the Club. Users of the database are also able to search under various different categories, which means that they can search for very specific information and have the results in an instant.

"The project was definitely a collaboration between the Club members and the scheme participants," Aine said. "We came in with different ideas about what the project should contain and how to go about it, and the participants helped us to accomplish that. Everyone was learning from each other."

Having the RSS/TUS participants on board was one of the most important factors in getting the project up and running as they had the specific computer skills that were needed. It also provided an excellent training ground because those who were on the scheme for a while shared their experience and skills with people who were new to the scheme.

"This was a great way to get to know people and the participants created a wonderful record of parish history," Aine said. "It's a fantastic piece of work."



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Claire McCarthy, Cathal Griffin, Lisa Murphy SKDP, Katie Gleeson (back from left) Melanie Paul, Kelly Joy, Hayley and Pauline Ferguson, Denis Cronin, Stephen Brosnan, Michael O'Donoghue, Maire Murphy, Pat Ferguson, Grace Murray and Kevin Griffin at the Deenagh Lodge Killarney run by Kerry Down Syndrome.

Crowds flock to Tearooms at Deenagh Lodge

DEENAGH Lodge is a popular tea room located in Killarney National Park. Every year, crowds of tourists flock here to have lunch or light refreshments after hours spent enjoying the sights and sounds of the park.

This is the eighth year of its operation under the management of Down Syndrome Ireland's (DSI) Kerry Branch whose members saw a viable business opportunity and a chance for those with special needs to gain valuable work experience.

"It's a very busy place," said Patricia Griffin, who has volunteered extensively with DSI

over the years. "It's a business first and that has to come first. The service has to be good." Currently, there are around forty young adults with Down Syndrome who work a few hours every week there.

They work in the kitchen, clear tables and do general tidy up. "They learn how to meet and greet and interact with people. It helps grow their confidence," Patricia said.

At Deenagh Lodge the staff has been given awareness training to help them to more fully understand those with special needs, including how to effectively communicate with them.

"They have to be willing to wait and have patience because people with Down Syndrome tend to do things more slowly than others," Patricia explained. "We also have someone there who is particularly tasked with managing these young people and we at Down Syndrome Ireland monitor the situation."

Over the last number of years, Deenagh Lodge has received assistance from TUS participants who help to run the tea room, but their work is more than just completing the general tasks that this involves – they are also required to lend a helping hand to their co-workers.

"A certain calibre of participant is needed for this type of work," said Patricia. "Someone who is willing and not afraid to interact with people with special needs. We provide them with awareness training and the people that we've had so far have been a very high calibre."

Kevin Griffin, also a member of DSK, said that the success of Deenagh Lodge has been greatly supported by the SKDP. "We're indebted in particular to Joe McCrohan and the supervisors in the area who are very proactive and very helpful," Kevin said. "They fully appreciate the value of the project."

Continued success to SKDP from

BALLYHAR DYNAMOS FC