



South Kerry Development Partnership CLG

Bonane community spirit has a heritage park to be proud of...



John McCrohan Supervisor, Sheila O'Sullivan, Donal McCarthy Supervisor, Andy Murphy, Lynne Brennan, Danny O'Connor, Tom O'Sullivan, Mary O'Leary, John Joe Sweeney, John Harrington, Ryan O'Sullivan, Ted Riordan, Denise O'Sullivan, Fiona and Ollie O'Shea Dugout Boat Project at Bonane Heritage Park, Kenmare.

BONANE Community Co-op Society is a perfect example of forward thinking when it comes to showcasing the ancient heritage and antiquity of a locality. The Bonane Heritage Park is one of the most appealing landscapes in the Beara Peninsula, boasting some of the most fascinating examples of archaeological heritage in the county.

But the genesis of this project is owed to the community spirit of Bonane Community Co-op Society, which was formed in 2002.

The group was set up with the aim of acquiring land from Coillte that would become a precursor to the heritage park. The group was able to purchase 37 acres of land on which visitors today can view stone circles, fulacht fiadh, examples of rock art, and a ring fort, to name a few.

Danny O'Connor of the Community Co-op Society said that without the help of people from Tús schemes, the park would not be

maintained to the standard it is. When one considers that over 7,000 visitors a year pass through the park, this work is all the more vital.

"We couldn't do without RSS and Tús participants. They do so much in the community from helping older people to keeping localities looking good. Bonane Community Co-op Society has around 140 members and we're proud of what we've achieved in this beautiful part of the Sheen Valley," said Danny.

Growing membership is a huge positive for Sneem Rowing Club



Sneem U-16's Bronze Medalists (from left) Martin Larkin, Ewan Buckley, Damien Fitzgerald, Colm Van Assen, Eoin O Dwyer (Cox Adrian Fitzgerald at the Rowing County Championships at Sneem.

ROWING is part and parcel of life in south Kerry and Sneem Rowing Club is one such club that attracts and encourages rowing enthusiasts to get involved. Club members not only take to the water but also enjoy the fabulous facilities at its gym. The fact there is no other gym in the immediate vicinity means this serves as an important venue

bringing people of all ages together.

Delia Murphy is Chairperson of Sneem Rowing Club and she explains that the beauty of rowing is that people of all ages can enjoy it. Whether it's taking part - or just being there in a supporting capacity - it forms an important link between people and families with a huge emphasis on



Fossa U-16's Silver Medallists (from left) Senan Murphy, Darragh Sullivan, Padraic Talbot and Rebecca O Connell at the Rowing County Championships at Sneem.

community involvement.

The club has benefited greatly from SKDP assistance and Delia said the club would not be able to operate its gym without SKDP support. The gym is also a great way of bringing in funds through membership.

"A lot of our funding is raised locally through

fundraising. We have about a 100 members in total - some are rowers and some are gym members. Because the gym is open morning and evening, we now have a growing membership. This is thanks to the help of SKDP. We're a competitive club and the 2018 season was a very successful one for us. We're looking forward to a new season," said Delia.

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Working towards a better future for Milltown and its environs

MILLTOWN Chamber Alliance is one of many active alliance groups in Kerry established with the aim of improving and enhancing the economic and social vibrancy of its community.

Milltown Chamber Alliance was set up to act as an umbrella organisation for all of the different groups around Milltown such as business, sporting and community bodies. Its core purpose is to coordinate the development of Milltown and make it a good place to live and work.

Stuart Stephens explains that it's about broadening engagement and getting more people involved. If someone has an idea or project that may serve the community, Milltown Chamber Alliance will do its best to support it.

Stuart added that SKDP helped the Chamber to secure a grant to devise its five-year Tidy Towns Plan. This will provide a focus for Milltown on what it needs to achieve. The rural social schemes have also been brilliant in terms of revamping local buildings and amenity areas.

Currently, Milltown Chamber Alliance has eight elected members. The aim is to keep attracting representatives from all sectors of the town and surrounding countryside. Its long-term goal is to draw up an all-encompassing local area plan for the district, which means everyone will have an input into the future of Milltown.



Sean Coffey, Ailish Burke (back) Mary Clifford Supervisor, Patricia Clifford Tidy Towns, Rosarie McGillicuddy Supervisor, Mary O'Sullivan Tidy Towns, Ger Foley and John Morris in Milltown.

Beaufort GAA's historic season bodes well for the future

BEAUFORT GAA's historic march on Croke Park in 2019 serves as a good indicator of how hard work and nurturing in a community can produce success. The recent All-Ireland glory may have taken just 70 minutes to achieve, but behind this accolade is a decade or more of community activism.

Beaufort GAA is a big part of the community and the number of people that joined the journey to Croke is proof of this pride, according to Executive Committee member, Maurice Foley. Maurice believes it was this All-Ireland campaign that brought it home to people just how important a role the club plays at grassroots level for all ages and interests. Moreover, in recent years,

SKDP has helped the club in terms of improving its facilities

"It is great to have their help and assistance. It's not always that easy to get people together when it comes to doing work, so from the point of view SKDP's role has been vital," said Maurice.

Thanks to a combination of success on and off the field, the future of Beaufort GAA is bright. Maurice explains that the club is in a 'healthy situation' in terms of its population, which is helping to revitalise the club at underage level. Local schools are equally vibrant, while young people are choosing to build homes in the locality and raise their families – all of which bodes well for a bright future.



Denis Murphy (left) with Jack McGrath President and Maurice Foley of Beaufort GAA Club and Paudie O'Shea SKDP Supervisor at Beaufort GAA grounds.

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New members always welcome in Keel Community Council

ONE of many positive initiatives in rural communities is the formation of community councils. A good example of this drive and ambition to involve people in their locality is Keel Community Council.

The main aspiration of this council is to ensure as many amenities and opportunities are made available to people and that they are obtainable. You need amenities in all areas, but ones that preferably benefit locals and tourists alike.

Patricia Deane of Keel Community Council said that a good example of a dual amenity in the area is the Looped Walks, which serve everyone. But local amenities must also be maintained, and the Keel Community Centre also needs to be kept in prime condition to cater for activities.

Patricia insists that SKDP is very sensitive to the work and support of the community. The input of Rural Social Schemes means that people are on the ground working and making a difference. Without recourse to SKDP scheme maintenance and funding, many such projects could not happen.

Keel Community Council is a small group and Patricia is asking anyone who wants to join to get in touch. Any new ideas on new projects that will benefit the community should also be brought forward for discussion.

"We always have the door opened to new people who want to get involved and help us out," Patricia said.



Larry McKenna, Tom Courane, Ronan Diggin with (back) Rosarie McGillicuddy, Judi Pheysey and 'Noel' at the picturesque walk at Keel.

Preserving heritage and antiquity in Comane/Glenbeigh

THE Comane/Glenbeigh Holy Well project is a significant indicator of a community working in unison to preserve its tradition and antiquity. St Finian's Well has enjoyed a celebrated existence in the community for centuries, but its thanks to this group's understanding of the past that the well's future is now secure.

In 2012 a committee was formed to revive the holy well as it had become overgrown and inaccessible to the public. Through a combination of community schemes under the remit of SKDP, man power and funds were put in place to set about restoring the well. In subsequent years a grotto and pathway have been added to reach the well, while a car park has also been provided.

Committee member Sean Roche explained that without the permission of local landowners and the intervention of SKDP the project would not have been possible.

"A measure of the strength of this project is that it brought the community together. Both in terms of working and fundraising. Local businesses have also been amazing and it's really a project to be proud of," said Sean.

"We have a lot of work done through South Kerry Partnership. Our main aim was to bring the holy well back to what it was. Easter Monday we organise a walk to the well and a mass is held there as the Men's Social Choir from Killorglin sing. Our annual walk is 8km that starts at the Red Fox Inn and in the past few years the walk has raised anything up to €50,000 for local charities."



Joe McCrohan RSS and Tús Manager (right) with John Mulvihill, Tim Sheehan and Sean Roche at St Finian's Holy Well, Glenbeigh.

Continued Success & Best Wishes to South Kerry Development Partnership and thank you for all the great work carried out in Killorglin from

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

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St Mary's GAA Club, Cahersiveen

Thanks to all the Rural Social Scheme and Tús placement operatives for all their dedicated and enormous assistance over the past number of years.

Weekly Club lotto tickets are sold locally in various pubs and businesses in the town. Thanks to everyone who supports our lotto.



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Annascaul Walking Group continue their step in the right direction

ANNASCAUL Walking Group is a step ahead in terms of its organisation and vibrancy. This is a group going places as it provides weekly walks at two different levels. It has a membership of 50 and is open to all ages. It is a very social organisation as it arranges trips abroad and weekends away to walking venues. Group member Mary Ward said the benefits associated with Annascaul Walking Club are both social and positive from a mental and physical perspective.

SKDP has helped in the group's development as the latter is continually looking to develop walkways in the locality. SKDP supported them in achieving this objective. In 2012 SKDP funded a 'scoping project' to identify key developments that would improve tourism amenities in Annascaul. The one that came out tops was the river walks, for which funding was secured with the help of SKDP. This walk is currently being developed and it will link in with the popular 'Tom Crean Endurance

Walk' once completed.

"We're a very strong group and we run festivals and events. In 2013, during the 'Gathering Year', The Tom Crean Walk started and it has continued to grow ever since," said Mary. "It is now one of the key challenges in the walking calendar in Ireland. It's a 20 mile walk starting in Mount Brandon and once we advertise the walk on-line every February, it sells out in approximately an hour."



Mary Ward, Mary Deane and Tom J Devane (right) of Annascaul Walks with Joseph McCrohan RSS and Tús Manager, John Cahillane and Gearóid Sayers of South Kerry Development Partnership on a section of the walking route currently being laid out from Bunaneer at the south of the Dingle Peninsula to Clohane in the north. The route passes Annascaul Lake and through the majestically scenic Maca na Bó in the background.

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Front seated from left to right Sr Canisius, Bro John Guinane (back from left) Leah Kelly, Ger Casey, Tony O'Malley, Paudie O'Shea SKDP, Linus Burke, Michael McCarthy and Don Myers at the Nagle Rice Community Centre.

The Nagle Rice Community Centre is an invaluable resource

THE Nagle Rice Community Centre committee is proud that it is continuing to meet the needs of people in the Milltown area. This is achieved by providing a vibrant and positive focal point for every kind of activity - sporting and social.

This is all the more significant considering there is a rising demographic within the Milltown-Castlemaine region. The Nagle Rice Community Centre operates its strategy with this in mind.

Committee member Don Myers describes the centre as 'invaluable' calling it a necessary and reactive resource for the locality. "It's vital and it connects people of all ages in the community. Its function is limitless in that it caters for sports and recreational

pursuits and it is beyond our belief that it has evolved and proved itself the way it has," he said. The SKDP have been involved from the outset in terms of assisting with funding and works. RSS and Tús participants also play a huge role in keeping the centre staffed throughout the day and evening. This is important as it ensures a constant presence at the centre.

"The centre is responsive to the community and we don't have to sell its appeal in any way; it's there for all the different groups and everything we do as a committee is for the centre. It's only valuable if it's used by people. The important thing to know is that it is open to everyone."

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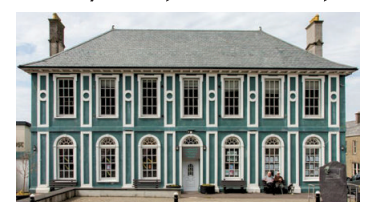
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KEEL GAA CLUB

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CAHERSIVEEN COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTRE



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SMOA Committee Members Donal O'Sullivan and Jack Fitzpatrick with SKDP RSS and Tús participants Cormac O'Shea, Michael Cremins, and Supervisor Mary Clifford, and John Morris at St Mary of the Angels, Beaufort.

Providing an exceptional service where it matters most...

St Mary of the Angels Parents and Relatives Association was founded in 2016 to support and enhance the lives of residents and the quality of their home in St Mary of the Angels. A key contributor in this policy is the exceptional contribution made by the RSS and Tús participants of SKDP.

While the great work of St John of God staff takes place primarily within St Mary of the Angels, they simply do not have sufficient funding to maintain the buildings and its vast surrounds.

The deterioration of the grounds of St Mary of the Angels was halted some years ago thanks to the late Donie Foley - a supervisor with SKDP who showed great interest in wanting to restore

St Mary of the Angels to its former self. In the past few years its grounds have been improved to a high spec with the main buildings - internally and externally - painted to a high finish.

"They are our main maintenance people at St Mary of the Angels and I couldn't speak highly enough of them," said Jack Fitzpatrick, Chairman St. Mary of the Angels Parents and Relatives Association. "The interest, dedication and pride of the RSS and Tús participants is something you must see to fully appreciate. It is vital to the place. By creating such beautiful grounds they can be proud of their work, as they have enhanced the lives of the people living there, and who go to school there," said Jack.



South Kerry Development Partnership CLG. Rural Social Scheme and Tús community work placement initiative Invites

Community & voluntary groups and sporting organisations in the Killarney, Kenmare, Mid Kerry, Annascaul and Iveragh areas are invited to put forward their work plans for assistance from the South Kerry Development Partnership Clg, Rural Social Scheme and the Tús community work placement initiative.

These schemes benefit rural and urban communities by providing additional resources to maintain and improve local amenities and facilities. It is very important that every community group benefits from the skills and commitment of the supervisors and participants available.

If your community & voluntary group, sporting organisation, or charity would like to avail of the services of the Rural Social Scheme and Tús Participants please contact, Mr. Joseph McCrohan, RSS & Tús Manager, South Kerry Development Partnership Clg, West Main Street, Cahersiveen, Co Kerry. Tel (066) 9472724, email jmccrohan@skdp.net to discuss your proposals and receive a community work plan application form.

Work plan application forms can be downloaded from www.southkerry.ie

Also Farmers and long term unemployed people both male and female are invited to apply to become participants on both schemes by contact Mr. Joseph McCrohan at the address above.

The South Kerry Development Partnership Clg wishes to acknowledge the support of the Department Employment Affairs and Social Protection for providing the funding for these schemes.

Continued Success &
Best Wishes to South Kerry
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**THE RURAL MENS
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