



SOUTH KERRY DEVELOPMENT
PARTNERSHIP CLG.

Rural Social Scheme and TÚS Community Work Placement Initiative

Case Studies



Foreword

The following 19 case studies were put together by the Rural Social Scheme (RSS) & Tús community work placement initiative (Tús) supervisors in conjunction with community representatives from the community projects involved during May 2020.

Whilst the RSS provides income support for low income farmers and Tús provides income support for long term unemployed people, both initiatives provide skilled labour to community and voluntary groups across the Country. In South Kerry Development Partnership CLG both initiatives work very closely together to provide the best possible service to community groups both urban and rural across South Kerry.

The aim of this document is to give readers the opportunity to see the width and depth of the support provided to community groups across all South Kerry by the RSS & Tús participants and Supervisors. At the time of writing these case studies, there were over 150 farmers participating on the RSS and up to 100 long-term unemployed people participating on the Tús initiative. These people bring many different skills that are put to use in a wide variety of community projects as highlighted through these case studies. Work includes painting of community centres, maintaining sporting facilities, guiding visitors to a lighthouse, looking after the elderly, maintaining walking routes, providing a cattle weighing service, office administration work etc. The supervisor's skills and knowledge in the placement of participants on the different projects are key to getting all this community work completed.

The Board of South Kerry Development Partnership CLG is very proud of the co-operation and commitment shown by the participants, supervisors and community representatives in getting this work done. This work makes South Kerry such a wonderful place to live in and to visit.

I want to complement all involved in putting these case studies together and to thank them for having the initiative to tell these positive stories about South Kerry Development Partnership CLG, the Rural Social Scheme and Tus community work placement initiatives. Every effort will be made to continue this support for community groups and the wider population of South Kerry.



Cllr. Michael Cahill

Chairperson

South Kerry Development Partnership CLG

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Ballydribbeen Resident's Association

Killarney secured a Community House on a long term lease from Kerry County Council. Kerry County Council, the HSE and SKDP are all committed to providing community supports to the residents of the estate through this community house.

The community house provides a location for these agencies and others to meet with the resident's groups and individuals from the estate, and to provide a venue for activities to benefit the residents of the estate.

In order to transform the community house from a residential unit the Resident's Association were supported to apply for Leader Funding through SKDP.

The work of transforming the vacant premises into a Community House was carried out by the skilled TÚS workforce. The following work was completed to the house.

- A stud wall was removed to merge the 2 bedrooms into one larger meeting room.
- Floors were levelled, walls plastered and fire doors and frames installed.
- Architrave & skirting was installed & the whole premises painted.
- Office furniture was delivered and fitted in place in the community house.

When the house was ready the next steps to get this new Community Office up and running were initiated. TÚS participants supported the Resident's Association opening of their new community office in the form of administrative and general office supports on site.

Beginning in 2019, working with the SICAP Community Development Officer Éadaoin Moynihan and the Resident's Association it was decided to begin an after school homework club. Three TÚS participants are now, not only keeping the house open and supporting the community office, they are also operating supervised homework sessions for young people from the area.

This project now has 8 children availing of the Homework Club and the children really enjoy it. Due to the age range of the children and the time of the Homework Club, the group leaders (TÚS Participants) took the initiative to supply healthy snacks for the children before they settle down to do their homework. This snack time is extremely beneficial as it allows 'circle time', time for the children to catch up with each other as they all attend different schools. This helps the children to focus better when it's time to do their homework. The children really enjoy the group time and the feedback to date has been that their homework has benefitted greatly from attending the homework club and they have made new friends.

This project is a great example of all the different departments of SKDP working together, but it also shows that having TÚS participants supporting a local community and by working together new opportunities can create better lives for young people and their families.

Cappanalea

National Centre for Outdoor Education and Training



Cappanalea Training Centre

Cappanalea is the National Centre for Outdoor Education & Training (NCOET) run under the auspices of Kerry Education and Training Board. It was established by Killorglin Community Council and Munster AFAS (Association of Adventure Sports). The Centre was established in 1981, it was known as Cappanalea Outdoor Education Centre until 2019.

In 2019 an agreement was signed between Kerry Education and Training Board and University College Cork which paved the way for new educational courses, training and research projects to be established at Cappanalea as Ireland's National Centre for Outdoor Education and Training.

Cappanalea focuses on personal development through the medium of adventure sports. The highly qualified instructors offer programmes which include the full range of adventure sports and field study activities. The Centre is nestled in the hill side over-looking the sheltered waters of Cappanalea Lake. The activities include canoeing, leadership training, orienteering, sailing, hillwalking, windsurfing, team building, and rock climbing.

Cappanalea National Centre for Outdoor Education & Training can accommodate fifty two students/visitors in en-suite dormitories of four or six, as well as accommodate four teachers/leaders. The Centre facilitates daily and five day courses for Primary and Secondary School students. There are scout camps, youth group camps, summer camps for children, and family day out are part of the programmes provided.

The Rural Social Scheme participants have worked at the facility since the commencement of the Scheme. Over the years the Rural Social Schemes have undertaken many projects.

The maintenance and upkeep of the amenity park; which involves keeping field drains free, and boundary walls safe in the camp site. There are two camp site fields near the centre which need to be maintained. Strimming, grass, briar, rushes and furze cutting is undertaken before groups arrive. Timber logs for the camp fires are brought to the sites. At the Centre itself, hedges and flowerbeds are pruned and cutback and weeds removed. Pathways kept clean and safe. Erection of fencing wire and stakes is undertaken. The painting and maintenance of garden furniture and benches is also included in the work.

Over the years the RSS workers have opened pathways from the Centre to the Boathouse in a manner that is in keeping with the rugged landscape. They have used natural materials. Cut out steps on the hillside, and erected styles in various locations. The most recent work in the wooded area is the installation of five shelters. The participants cleared out the foundation and poured the concrete for the bases. They moved logs to the shelter site and helped organise these for the structure to be completed. The shelters are of log structure.

The equipment store where rug sacks, bog trotters, tents, wet suits, etc. are stored, is maintained.

The participants enjoy working at Cappanalea as the work is varied; the location is peaceful and beautiful. They have a good relationship with Donal Dowd, Director at the Centre and his team, who have shown respect and appreciation at all times for the participants.



Log Shelter Constructed
by RSS

Care of the Elderly - Portmagee Social Services

Portmagee Social Services was set up in 1995 as the community recognised a need for services for the elderly and vulnerable in the community.

Portmagee Social Services is a sub- committee of Portmagee Development Group. The aim of the group is to empower specific disadvantaged groups to effectively participate in community activities which in turn would combat loneliness and isolation in the community.

After many attempts the group was successful in securing Dormant Account funding for a fully furnished day room and a fully equipped kitchen in 2012. This allowed the committee with the support of the HSE to open a Social Centre unit for the elderly in the community to come in on a weekly basis, have dinner, take part in arts and crafts, physical activities and receive important personal care from the services of a nurse. This is a very worthwhile and assuring service for all its users. Currently clients attend the social centre weekly for a meal and activities. The centre also delivers meals to other clients 3 days per week.

The group is run by a voluntary committee which covers a wide range of other services including a laundry service which serves the elderly and disadvantaged in Portmagee.

Visitations to the homes of the elderly and vulnerable in the community carried out by two Rural Social Scheme participants every week. The elderly look forward to this weekly social activity to share the local news and discuss current affairs. Other services provided by RSS participants include

- Grass and Hedge cutting
- Indoor and outdoor Painting
- Power washing footpaths around houses
- Filling any forms for those who require assistance when requested

Meals on wheels and the laundry service are carried out by the local Community Employment Scheme.

Portmagee is a small thriving farming, fishing and tourism village in South West Kerry and Portmagee Social Services enhances the services already in the community by providing Portmagee Community and its surrounding area with all the above essential services for both elderly and the community at large

If you feel you qualify for work to be done on your home under the care of the elderly action contact your local South Kerry Development Partnership RSS or TÚS Supervisor and they will give you an application form to complete.

Care of the Elderly - Cahersiveen Area

Care of the elderly is one of the actions that RSS and TÚS participants enjoy most. It involves providing light maintenance and small improvement work to homes of the elderly.

The reason for providing RSS and TÚS labour to do the care of the elderly work is to help elderly people who don't have immediate family members to do the jobs and they cannot afford to pay a contractor. The elderly person provided all the materials for the work.

To qualify to get work done on your home under the Care of the elderly scheme you must be:

- Over 65 years of age and hold a full Medical Card. You must provide a copy of your medical card to the local RSS or TÚS Supervisor in your area.
- Living alone or married couple living with no PAYE or self-employment income coming into the house.

If you do not hold a Medical Card and feel you should qualify you have to have a written referral from either of the following:

1. HSE public health nurse.
2. Housing section of The Kerry County Council.

The Following is a list of the type of work we generally do under the Scheme

- Lawn and Hedge Cutting
- Interior and exterior House Painting
- Tiling Bathrooms and Kitchens
- Power Hosing yards and driveways
- Carpentry work

In 2019 we cut 35 Lawns in the Cahersiveen area on a weekly/fortnightly basis depending on growth and availability of our workers as summer time is a busy time of year for farmers. We would also have cut hedges in 45 homes.

Exterior house painting would be one of our more time consuming jobs and is obviously weather dependent. First job we do when painting a house is spray the walls with Mosco to kill the moss and algae, then minimum of two days later we come back and power hose the house, it is now ready to paint. The home owner supply's the paint and we charge a small fee to cover costs of the van to bring the equipment and participants to the job. We complete most of our interior painting jobs in winter when we cannot work outside.

We also complete a wide range of other tasks around the house from tiling bathroom floors to putting down timber floors or erecting some shelving. We also do some gardening work and cleaning up back yards, it all depends on the needs of the client.

The KerryLIFE Fresh Water Pearl Mussel Project

The Kerry Life Project is an integrated project between the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Teagasc, South Kerry Development Partnership CLG, and Coillte, working closely with the local communities and stakeholders in the farming and forestry sectors to address the pressures of siltation and nutrient enrichment, to deliver sustainable land use management for the conservation of the Freshwater Pearl Mussel. The photo No.1 is of an adult fresh water pearl mussel.



No. 1 Fresh Water Pearl Mussel (*Margaritifera margaritifera*)

Ireland is regarded as a stronghold within Europe for the freshwater pearl mussel. The mussel is a key species in the ecology of many Irish rivers helping to keep their waters clean thereby producing wider benefits for other aquatic biodiversity such as fish stocks.

South Kerry Development Partnership CLG has been a partner in the KerryLIFE project since its inauguration in 2014. The LIFE project is part of the Fresh Water Pearl Mussel an EU conservation project, for the protection of the Pearl Mussel in the Caragh & Blackwater Rivers.

The catchments are important for a number of habitats and species, including the endangered freshwater pearl mussel (*Margaritifera Margaritifera*). The conservation status of this species has, over the years, declined due to land mismanagement, with diffuse sediment and nutrient losses

being the main causes. There is an urgent need to reverse this decline and improve the conservation condition of freshwater pearl mussel in these rivers. The photo No.2 shows fresh water pearl mussel in ideal conditions on the river bed.

KerryLIFE focuses on supporting sustainable farming and forestry activities within the two river catchments. Engagement with the farmers and forest-owners allows local knowledge and experience to be harnessed, and can be brought together with the scientific expertise of the various project partners to overcome some of the challenges faced by the farmers and forest owners in freshwater pearl mussel catchments.

To date the KerryLIFE project has engaged and worked with over 39 Farmers in both the Caragh & Blackwater catchments, demonstrating conservation measures to support the conservation of the freshwater pearl mussel.

Kerry. South Kerry Development Partnership CLG., has one part-time Rural Social Scheme participant based in Glencar



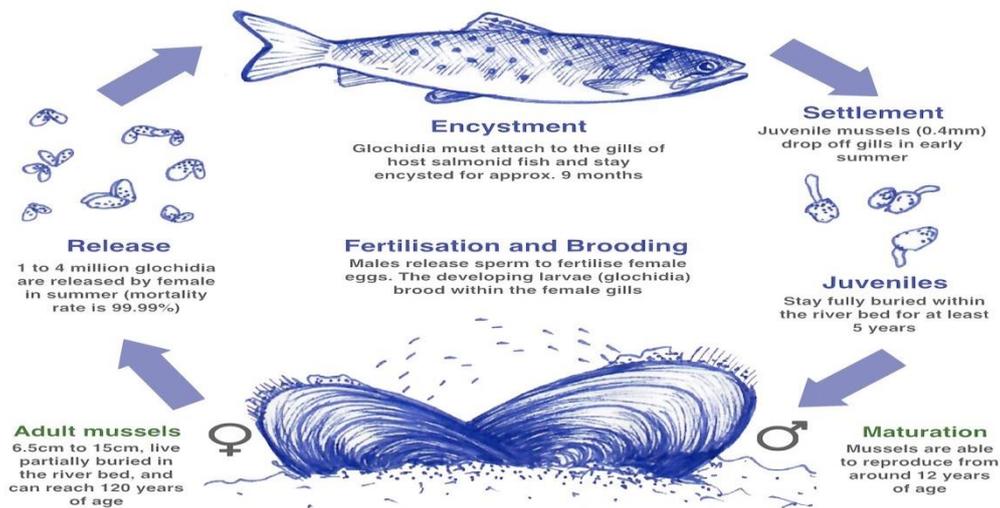
No. 2 Fresh Water Pearl Mussel on the river bed

The Project Team was appointed in 2014 & the project office is based in the Glencar Community Centre in County Kerry assisting the various officers employed on the KerryLIFE project.

This RSS participant's work involves anything from helping

- Farm Advisor – Walking farms to carry out Soil Sampling
- Forestry Advisor – Environmental Maintenance Work , surveying forestry making sure that the control measures are in place
- Administrator – Administration / Clerical Work which includes anything from the inputting of Data collected to, organising the paperwork for Farmer Payments.

The KerryLIFE project will run until September 2020. The project is made possible through €5 million funding for Freshwater Pearl Mussel conservation in South Kerry under the EU's LIFE+ programme.



The Life Cycle of the
Fresh Water Pearl Mussel

Nagle Rice Community Centre

Nagle Rice Community Centre is a community and sport facility in Milltown that provides a centre for a wide range of sports activities such as Basketball, badminton, indoor soccer, aerobics etc. It also provided space for the Arts including, music, drama, concerts and social activities such as card playing, youth clubs with children's' birthday parties very popular.

The Nagle Rice community centre was developed in 2014-2015 with the assistance of a €500,000 grant under the LEADER Rural Development Programme through South Kerry Development.

SKDP continues to support this project through the provision of personnel for the daily running of the centre through the Rural Social Scheme (RSS) and the TÚS community work placement initiative.

There is a wide variety of work carried out on site by RSS/ TÚS participants as the centre is very busy with the various sport activities

- General Maintenance
- All surfaces and floors are cleaned and hoovered on a daily basis.
- Grass cutting, flower bed maintenance outside
- Office Administration including taking booking and general office work a book keeping.
- Weekly Events Organising including setting out tables in chairs for children parties, youth clubs, card games etc.
- Larger events such as Fleadh Cheoil or concerts require the large court to be covered by a protective mat and 300-400 chairs to be arranged. Participants from other projects may be drafted in to assist with this.



Landscaping at Nagle Rice

Prospective applicants for roles on the RSS and TÚS are interviewed and based on suitability may be placed in Nagle Rice. Currently there are 6 TÚS participants covering 7 days a week from 9.00 am to 10.00pm. As TÚS is a one year contract a 6 new participant have to be found every year to keep the Centre in operation. A community group representative, the participants and the Supervisor meet regularly to organise a roster to ensure all essential times, based on activity are covered. The Supervisor also ensures that the workers are happy in their roles and that the work is being done to a satisfactory level.

Health and Safety of the participants on this and all SKDP community projects are very important. Risk Assessments of the site are carried out with all parties annually to raise awareness of participant safety.

This project works very well in providing vital operational assistance to the centre and in turn providing the RSS/TÚS participant an opportunity to gain valuable work experience that will benefit them going forward.

Puck Fair Ltd

Background to Project

Puck Fair is a long established festival with the first written reference dating back to the early 17th Century when Jenkins Conway, a local landlord at the time was granted a right to collect a sum of money for every animal brought to the August Fair. This would seem to suggest the Fair was already established in the community. Whatever the history, the Fair has lived on and it continues to be one of the main social, economic and cultural events in the Killorglin calendar. “It is a time when old friends meet, when new friendships are forged and the cares of everyday living are put on hold”. The town of Killorglin is in the geographical heart of County Kerry. The festival is held on 10th, 11th and 12th August each year.

There is a huge volume of work undertaken by the Puck Fair Committee each year to set up 12 hours of free family street entertainment. Workshops for pipe bands, circus, drumming etc. are held. Two parades take place at the crowning and dethroning of the goat year. Entertainment in the form of live traditional music, the night shows featuring top entertainers take place on the stage. Theatrical acts, street traders, and entertainers are all part of the festival. The festival culminates with a fireworks show each year.

The Rural Social Scheme participants commenced work with Puck Fair Ltd in 2008. They work with the Puck Fair committee volunteers prior and post festival. This involves the following work

- Deploying water barriers from storage yard in readiness for Fire Brigade to fill with water.
- Move approx. 350 crowd control barriers from storage to strategic positions in the town, where they are stacked until needed on the days of the festival.
- Erecting Harris fencing around planted areas that need protection and along the river bank at the lower car park on Annadale Road.
- Put up signage and traffic control signage on approach roads to the town, and in the field for the horse fair.
- Help with the erection of a stage at Library Place for events during the festival.

All these tasks are undertaken in a co-ordinated manner with the help of eight to ten RSS participants' people over a four day period prior to the festival.

When the festival is over it is important to return the town to its residents and businesses as quickly as possible. The RSS participants spend a further three days returning the above items to storage for the next year. They also identify damage and wear and tear to the equipment informing the committee of the issues so that they can be fixed or replaced for the next year.

The participants look forward to this project work each year as it provides a variation from the normal work routine. They meet with many people while undertaking the work. The festive atmosphere in the town leading up to the Puck Fair is uplifting. This agricultural based festival with the horse and cattle fair is part of the farming culture of the RSS workers. The benefit of the festival to the local community has a knock on effect. Being from a farming background the men are willing to undertake any task put to them, and understand the need for perfection and safety in the work ethic. The committee provide a free meal to each of the men daily for the duration of the work period. The committee are very appreciative for the work undertaken. It is of two way benefit to all concerned.

Skellig Rangers GAA Club

Skellig Rangers GAA Club was founded in 1895; it was then known as Portmagee GAA Club but adopted the present Skellig Rangers name in the 1930's. In the 1970's the club put in massive efforts in financing and developing of playing facilities. In the mid 90's a major development of playing pitch and a new stand with dressing rooms underneath was completed. Once more in the 2000's another major development was undertaken which included dressing rooms, floodlighting, state of the art Gym, meeting room, Kitchen & Office.

The club is run by an executive committee which in turn has many sub committees where all contribute to the running of the club. The club has a great co-heart of excellent volunteers which are always at hand to assist on all occasions. These volunteers are enhanced and assisted by participants on both the Rural Social Scheme and community Employment Scheme.

The Rural Social Scheme at present has 4 participants which carry out a wide range of activities:

- Pitch Maintenance, which involves Strimming, spraying spiking, and manuring.
- Maintaining drains regularly by replacing pea gravel.
- Lining of pitch for all games, maintaining nets.
- Cleaning dressing rooms weekly
- All lotto administration, which involves:
 - Collection of all tickets on a Monday morning and checking that all tickets are there after draw.
 - Checking yearly paid up tickets with bank statement to ensure that all is in order, Notifying clients when their subscription fall due.
 - Creating poster with the results of the draw and sending same into Kerry man notes, distribution of posters to all the business in the locality.
 - Ensuring that all winners receive their winnings
 - Changing display board in village weekly

The Rural Social Scheme has completed several projects for the club, built machinery shed, rebuilt wall surrounding field, replaced gates, repaired commentary box, built stone wall, and erected score board built frame and sliding cover to protect it from the elements. Changing rooms and showers were tiled.

Like all rural clubs Skellig Rangers have fallen victim to emigration down through the years with many of our players leaving for far away shores, this is another key challenge is rural depopulation.

The GAA club is so important in a community, proud of its past and looking forward to the future.

Ross Café

Originally the building was known as Ross Products and was a cardboard factory operated by a voluntary body called Kerry Mental Health Association (KMHA) providing employment to individuals recovering from and living with mental illness. KMHA holds the land on a long lease from the HSE. KMHA constructed the factory and offices which they operated for over 40 years before going out of business in 2010 following which portion of the factory was made available to Killarney Men's Shed and the remainder to the Ross Café project. SKDP assisted both Killarney Men's Shed and Ross Café to realise the projects.

TÚS under South Kerry Development Partnership originally became involved in the project when we were asked to assist with the refurbishment of the building into a drop-in Social centre for Kerry mental health service users.

The refurbishment included the building of a number of rooms to provide recreational activities and gathering space for meetings. Facilities are also made available to a range of voluntary organisations for physical exercise sessions, rural women's meetings, knitting clubs, drama etc. There was a small tuck shop available, but this has since evolved into a functional café open to the public and service users alike. This is currently managed by a past participant of SKDP TÚS.in Killarney, while another recent TÚS participant has been employed as an assistant.



Café Counter installed by
Tús



Additional Seating Area
converted by Tús

Description of the Work:

Phase 1:

Sectioning of old factory floor into numerous rooms and ceilings adding additional exits and windows. Insulating roof space and walls. Liaising with professional tradesmen. Completing final decoration and fit out to budget.

Phase 2:

Refurbishment of old factory canteen into shop and café that is open to the public primarily for Kerry mental health service users. This work involved removing old cabinets and moving of the entrance

doorway. Installation of new kitchen, decoration and tiling.

Phase 3:

Converting the old toilet block into additional seating area for the café. This involved the removing of old toilet stalls and showers. Capping of old sewage pipes and redundant plumbing. Fitting of new and additional windows and doors. The area needed new plastering and decoration also.

TÚS Participants on this project learned:

- Carpentry skills
- Taping and jointing
- Erection of plaster board
- Tiling
- Painting and decorating

Not only did the various TÚS participants get very valuable work experience and new skills, they got to see the benefit of their work to the clients of Kerry Mental Health Association. Service users from Kerry Mental health now have a place to socialise and interact with people in a safe place. The participants enjoyed this work as this work was indoor and during the winter as they were able to stay out of the bad weather. They also enjoyed the interaction with some of Kerry Mental Health clients, who would come especially on the days the TÚS participants were working to have a chat.

Future work / Development:

Kerry Mental Health Association has plans to develop a sensory garden at the rear of the building. SKDP are liaising with Kerry Mental Health Association to finalise outline and schedule of works and it is expected that TÚS participants will again complete this work.



Corridor leading to former
factory floor

Cattle Weighing Project

The Cattle Weighing project was set up by the Agriculture Sub Committee of South Kerry Development Partnership CLG back in 2013. The committee saw a need for farmers in the area to continually making improvements to their beef stock. In conjunction with the Irish Cattle Breeding Federation it was decided that the next step for the farmers of the area was to weigh cows and calves to identify the best performing animals in the herd. Once the best animals were identified, only these animals would be selected to breed replacement heifers from.

The Agriculture sub -committee with funds for the South Development Partnership CLG, Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme purchased mobile cattle weighing scales. The mobile weighing scale can be moved from farm to farm to weigh cattle. The photo below shows a picture of the mobile scales in a cattle crush on a farm in South Kerry.

The Rural Social Scheme was then asked to come on board to help with the man power needed to carry out this project. This work involves the Supervisor and participants taking the scales out onto farmers in South Kerry to weigh animals. This really was a good collaboration as the Agriculture Sub Committee had the vision and the Rural Social Scheme Supervisors and participants had the contact with the farmers. RSS Supervisors and participants attended a training day with Irish Cattle Breeders Federation (ICBF) in Bandon on the use of the equipment and how to feed the data from the farms into the national database and back to the individual farmers in South Kerry.

The project took off slowly at first but the local farmers started to see the benefits quickly and then when the Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine introduced the Beef Data and Genomic programme in 2015 the South Kerry farmers that were already identifying the better performing cows in their herds were a step ahead in relation to hitting the targets set out within the scheme. The cattle weighing project made it easier for these farmers to avail for this important Government support for beef farmers.



Mobile weighing scales
places in a farmers crush in
South Kerry

In 2019 the Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine announced the Beef Environment Efficiency Programme (BEEP) for beef farmers. It involved weighing the cows and an unweaned calf on the same day. The vision the SKDP, Agriculture Sub Committee had is now a reality and all beef farmers could participant. In 2019 South Kerry Development Partnership CLG weighed approx.4,000 animals on 85 farms in South Kerry. This brought approximately €65,000 of additional income to the South Kerry farmers involved. Over 60 RSS participants attended

an information event on BDGP and BEEP in November 2019 to encourage more farmers to avail of these new innovative Government support to beef farmers.

In 2020 this scheme has developed even further and the weighing element is still a major part of it. The RSS Team had started to weigh animal born in the autumn of 2019 which were coming close to being weaning.

This is a very worthwhile service for smaller farmers who would not be in a position to purchase weighing scales. It helps farmers of the area to improve their income from their farms through have more environmentally efficient stock which help to reduce input cost while still having the quality required for the market place. Without the cattle weigh project this would not be possible for many farmers in South Kerry and they would be excluded from important government supports.



A beef cow being weighed as part of the BEEP in 2019

Commane/Glenbeigh Holy Well

The South Kerry Development Partnership CLG., (SKDP) Rural Social Scheme has been working with the Commane/Glenbeigh Holy Well Committee since 2013. During this time the participants on the RSS along with local volunteers have carried out a variety of work to assist in the development of this Holy Well known locally as “St. Finians Holy Well”.

The Commane/Glenbeigh Holy Well project is a significant indicator of a Community working together in unison to preserve its tradition and antiquity. “St. Finians Holy Well” has enjoyed a celebrated existence in the community for centuries, but it’s thanks to this group’s understanding of the past that the Well’s future is now secure.

In 2012 a local committee was formed to revive the Holy Well as it had become overgrown and inaccessible to the public. Through a combination of community supports under the remit of SKDP CLG., manpower and funds were put in place to set about restoring the well. (*SKDP CLG., Kerryman supplement 2019*)

Since 2013 with the invaluable assistance of a dedicated Rural Social Scheme under the direction of the SKDP CLG., & local volunteers an extensive restoration programme has been ongoing. “More than 80 tonnes of stone, gravel and other materials were brought to the site by wheelbarrows.” Weeds, briars and other unsightly material were removed and replaced with shrubs, paths, walls & a Grotto. The entire area was also landscaped.



Signage at entrance to St. Finians Holy Well

‘Today this Holy Well which is located along the Kerry Way is a tourist attraction and a place where people can come and remember their ancestors in a dignified and peaceful setting’ (*Pat Donovan Well committee member*)

Following the renovation and continuous development & maintenance of St. Finians Holy Well an annual Easter walk is held starting at The Red Fox Inn to the Holy Well. Over €60.000 has been raised to date for locally based charities and community projects during these Easter walks.

Work carried out at “St. Finians Holy Well” by the Rural Social Scheme in 2019 included

- Planting of shrubs & Hedging
- Development of a stone Wall
- Painting of Hand railing & Furniture
- Graveling of Pathways
- Extension of Car Park
- General maintenance of Holy Well



Stone Wall at Entrance to Well



St. Finians Holy Well

Cúnamh Iveragh

Cúnamh Iveragh is a charitable organisation set up by parents and friends of young adults with special needs in the Iveragh peninsula of South Kerry. Their objective is to provide vital services for these young adults in their own locality, so these young adults can achieve their full potential in the future and remain living close to their families.

South Kerry Development Partnership CLG (SKDP) Rural Social Scheme (RSS) have been working alongside Cúnamh for many years now. In 2009 Cúnamh purchased a bus to bring these young adults to and from their homes to a day service which is based in Cahersiveen town.

Monday to Friday, a driver and passenger assistant from the RSS collect and returned these vulnerable adults to their homes. This bus service gives great independence to all families involved knowing they have a service that is dedicated to them and their sons/daughters. The venerable adults know the 2 drivers and 2 passenger assistances that collect them every alternative week which builds a trust and friendship between all involved.

One of our RSS participants has just retired after 10 years on the Cúnamh bus and said he really enjoyed his time with the scheme and will miss the families that he helped during his time with RSS from all over south Kerry.

In 2013 Cúnamh purchased a property in Cahersiveen and with assistance of the building and decorating skills of RSS Supervisors and participants they renovated and opened Cúnamh House. Cúnamh House is a day care centre where life skills and further education is taught to the vulnerable adults on the Life programme.

The RSS continue with all the maintenance of Cúnamh House and its large lawn and garden areas. RSS participants have just finished converting an unused bathroom into a relaxation/sensory room that will help staff and clients.

Cúnamh and Iveragh mental health approached SKDP in 2014 for assistance to renovate a property in Cahersiveen to open a charity shop to fund their projects. RSS participants painted, decorated and fitted out the shop called 'A Helping Hand' which opened in late 2014 and has been a great success for both charities. An RSS participant is now doing her 19.5 hours working at this shop alongside volunteers from the community. Both charities along with the families they represent are extremely grateful for all work and assistance provided by the Supervisors and participants to date. It is planned to continue this work into the future

Derrynane Community Projects

Derrynane Inshore Rescue CLG, a registered charity, is a voluntary group set up to provide an emergency lifeboat service. It is a 24 hour station, on call from Valentia Coastguard on a beeper system. The area covers from Ballinskelligs Bay, Derrynane, Sneem, Templenoe Kenmare River, Tousist and into West Cork as far as Dursey island. No two calls out are the same. The crews work under high pressure and a stressful environment. Leaving the comfort of ones bed at any hour of the morning to attend a call 20 nautical miles away is no easy task. Yet they all do it voluntary. The vast majority of the situations attended are successful and have a happy ending, but unfortunately, there are some which do not.

Derrynane Inshore Rescue was formally launched in 1995 by Austin (Ossie) Wilson, (who owned the water sports Centre) following a tragic accident in 1990 where a father and son drowned on Easter Monday – a misty day with strong swells. Ossie and another member of the eventual rescue team Michael Donnelly, along with other local volunteers, realised that there had to be local co-ordination in rescue services, where the alarm could be raised and a search and rescue quickly organised. Even though Derrynane is close to the lifeboat station at Valentia, the Kenmare River is a huge area and it was agreed that additional services were required. A smaller boat, cheaper to run, more maneuverable in coastal waters, would be best to provide this.

The area RSS & TÚS Supervisor approached the Derrynane Inshore rescue coordinator in early 2019 to ascertain if S.K.D.P. could be of assistance. It was agreed that a TÚS participant would be very helpful to the group. They realised that this could free up a volunteers time for other duties, or indeed to attend additional training. Her key tasks include the maintenance of Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) following callouts and training exercises (i.e. cleaning, decontamination and storage of PPE ensuring they are checked & ready for use again at a moment's notice) whilst also ensuring the boathouse and slipway are clean, tidy & free of obstacles and debris at all times. The TÚS participant was equally very happy at the prospect of being placed locally, where she could walk to work. This is something which this Supervisor have always tried to achieve for participants, thus keeping their travel costs down - provided of course that the placement and participant are suited.

This started S.K.D.P. involvement with this very worthy organisation.

In early 2020 the RSS / TÚS Supervisor ascertained that a sub group had been successful in obtaining funding to purchase defibrillators for the area. We were very happy to be of assistance once again by placing another local man as a TÚS participant with the group doing maintenance work with this very worthwhile initiative, which will, and has, saved lives. Regular maintenance is critical for the successful operation of this equipment.

The maintenance work entails the following

- Drive to each location
- Inspect physical container holding machines for damage and report same.
- Examine each defibrillator to ensure it is in working condition - Main battery is functioning and in date, 9V battery is working and if not replace it,
- Examine pads to ensure they are in date. (There are a number of different models of defibrillator) a number of which require resetting on a somewhat regular basis.
- Log date of inspection

- Report any findings that need addressing to his immediate Supervisor.

The 16 defibrillators in question are located at:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. White Strand | 9. Caherdaniel GAA, Ballycarnahan |
| 2. O'Leary's Shop, Castlecove | 10. Caherdaniel Village |
| 3. Staigue Fort | 11. Derrynane House |
| 4. Behaghane | 12. Keatings Bar, Derrynane |
| 5. Coad | 13. Derrynane Inshore Rescue Boathouse |
| 6. Reen | 14. Bunavalla |
| 7. O'Carroll's Cove | 15. The Scariff Inn |
| 8. Wave Crest Caravan and Camping | 16. Lohar Church |



Defib locations; some are in close proximity to the Kerry Way

The TÚS participants enjoy being part of these very important community safety projects in Derrynane. The inshore rescue team is also very thankful to the participants for their work.

Dromid Graveyard Committee Project

Dromid Graveyard is situated in the Parish of Dromid and is about halfway between Waterville church and Cillin Liath Church. This is a large catholic graveyard. The graveyard has 2 parts to it, the old part which has the ruins of an old church on it and has graves dating back to the 1800's, and a newer part, which was first used in 1955.



Old Section of Dromid Graveyard

The graveyard Committee came to South Kerry Development Partnership CLG for help to maintaining the graveyard through the partnerships Rural Social Scheme. A meeting was held between the graveyard committee, Rural Social Scheme manager and Supervisor and Kerry Council staff as they own the graveyard. A Plan was drawn up and the project progressed.

The Rural Social Scheme participants cut the grass with strimmer's and lawnmowers about once a month from April to October each year. This can take a bit time depending on grass growth. This site is roughly about 5 acres in size and the old section is quite rough and bumpy. The graves are less uniformed than the newer graveyards of today. Many of the graves are marked with a small stone sticking up out the ground which makes the cutting a little more tedious. The newer part involves the big ride-on mower cutting the large section that has not been used yet and some strimming along the edges of the paths of the section that is being used. Kerry County Council local staffs are very helpful to

the committee, providing the materials need to carry out this work.

In 2018 the committee came to the Rural Social Scheme to ask for some extra help in a plan they had for putting in an base and a canopy for an alter they had made. The RSS team were delighted to help so in 2019 the RSS put in a concrete base for the structure and a local engineering company built and erected the canopy over the Alter. In October 2019 the annual mass at the graveyard, was said from the Alter under the new canopy for the first time.

The RSS participants are proud of this project and especially the canopy and the alter they were involved in providing. Most of the participants that work on this project are local to the area and this helps to bring pride to their work. The Rural Social Scheme has built a good working relationship with the Dromid Graveyard Committee over the years and hopefully this will continue well into the future.



Canopy at Dromid Graveyard

GO BY: Caherdaniel / Derrynane / Castlecove

The R.S.S. / TÚS area Supervisor was made aware of a proposed new voluntary group being organised in the general Caherdaniel / Castlecove area in late 2019.

The main aim of this group was to clean up the shoreline in this area by means of placing large receptacles at strategic locations on the beaches, thus maintaining clean shorelines by collecting and recycling plastic, rope, and netting thereon.

The receptacles would be very clearly marked for plastic / rope / netting - marine and the hope / expectation of the group was that the public would, on being made aware of this new initiative, row in by way of depositing any such items they might see on the beaches in the receptacles provided and clearly marked

The voluntary group had, by this point O.P.W. Derrynane house and gardens, B.I.M. and waste collection company, K.W.D. who covered all of Kerry including this area already on board.

K.W.D. had agreed to place a recyclable container in Derrynane house and all recyclables from the material collected could be deposited therein and K.W.D. would collect this on their regular collection from O.P.W. Derrynane house and gardens who in turn had agreed to facilitate this.

B.I.M. in turn had agreed to take all netting collected by the group to their recycling facility in West Cork, this would then be fed into a machine for recycling, thus reusing the nets.

All that was missing now were the people to;(A) regularly inspect the beach area being covered,(B) Collect any items not deposited by others,(C) Monitor the receptacles on the shoreline,(D) Bring their contents up to the other containers in Derrynane house (E) Segregate the various items therein, placing recyclables in the relevant container for collection by K.W.D. as agreed, general waste in the Derrynane waste bin as Derrynane had kindly agreed to allow and the netting in a separate location for onward transmission to B.I.M.(F)Bring the bottles and cans to the bottle bank in Caherdaniel village.

So this is where South Kerry Development Partnership came in to the picture. When Ger, the GO BY coordinator approached the R.S.S. / TÚS area Supervisor, for assistance we were happy that S.K.D.P. could do by placing two local people on a TÚS placement doing this very worthwhile work with this voluntary group and within own local Community. The beaches would be kept free of rubbish and marine debris'. Our TÚS participants would be based locally, thus keeping their travel costs down as this Supervisor always tries to so do, once we are happy with the compatibility of participant and placement.

The voluntary committee of GO BY was delighted that we could assist and resolve their personnel issue for them, so our two TÚS participants commenced their placements with this group on the first working day of 2019 in what we hope will be a long and productive association between S.K.D.P. and GO BY.

Keel Community Centre

Keel Community Centre is located on the main Castlemaine to Dingle Road about 1 mile from Boolteens Village. In 2017, Keel Community Council decided to carry out extensive renovations to the existing Community Centre which were the old National School rooms.

The renovation project was enabled by the provision of a grant from the LEADER programme through South Kerry Development Partnership (SKDP). This completed project greatly enhanced the capabilities of the centre, which is now reflected in the wide range of activities that take place there throughout the year for all age groups.

Activities such as Children's' Art Classes, Yoga and Meditation, Zumba Dancing, Choir Practice and Bingo are all well attended in the centre.

SKDP personnel from the Rural Social Scheme (RSS) and TÚS initiative scheme have provided assistance with the maintenance of the Centre for a number of years. When the Old School Rooms were re-opened in November 2019, extra help was provided through the hiring of 2 TÚS participants for the maintenance of the rooms and for marketing and organising events.

The types of work carried out by RSS/TÚS participants include;

- Painting of building and furniture
- Cleaning and polishing of floors and furniture in the main sports hall and the meeting rooms.
- Arranging equipment, tables and chairs for the events of the day.
- TÚS participants are also employed and have been very active in designing posters online for the promotion of the various activities and marketing these through social media and other public platforms.
- Bookings for events are taken and relayed to the community group representative.

The RSS/TÚS workers and the Community staff all work together as a team in making Keel Community Centre an ideal place to host any form of social activity.

Killarney Looking Good

The Rural Social Scheme (RSS) was initiated in 2004 to provide income support for farmers and fisherpersons who are currently in receipt of long-term social welfare payments and to provide certain services, to community & voluntary groups support from the scheme. The Scheme aims to provide additional resources to maintain and improve local amenities and facilities where the communities will benefit from the skills and talents of local farmers and fisherpersons.

One such talent which we are delighted to have on the Rural Social Scheme is the art of stone wall building and this work is evident in many areas in around Killarney which has been completed by the participant on the RSS and TÚS community work initiative.

South Kerry Development Partnership CLG RSS works closely with the Killarney Looking Good voluntary group who identify the work needed to be carried out and supply the materials necessary to complete the project.

Examples of Projects completed are:

- Stone work on place names
- Stone work on flower bed areas in Fossa
- Flower Beds Flesk Bridge
- Stone Wall at Bridgefield
- Stone work at Ballydowney, Pillars at New Burial Ground Kilcummin.



Fossa Flower Beds



Bridgefield Stone Wall

All of these projects have had a significant impact on enhancing the areas and promoting pride of place by residents associations and the wider community in these areas. They would have all been submitted as projects in the Tidy Towns submission and would have been much commented on by locals and judges alike.

The South Kerry Development Partnership CLG, RSS are delighted to be able to support the group who work tirelessly to keep the maintenance in Killarney at the high level which it operates at all times.

South Kerry Development Partnership CLG, RSS are currently working with over 20 other voluntary groups in the Greater Killarney area carrying out various tasks. Groups involved are GAA & Soccer Clubs, Graveyards, Walk Way's, Community Centres and Facilities, Tidy Towns & Villages, Care of the Elderly and other groups and individuals identified by our Community Nurses and Health Care Workers.



Flesk Bridge



Whitebridge

Cillian Liath National School

Cillian Liath National School is situated on the inland road from Waterville to Killarney on the banks of the Inny River. It was opened in 1973 replacing five other schools that closed in the parish of Dromid. It is a three teacher school at present with about 50 pupils and as it is situated in the Gaeltacht area of South Kerry, all subjects are taught through Irish with children traveling from neighbouring areas to become bi-lingual and achieve fluency in Irish.

For many years South Kerry Development Partnership CLG have worked alongside the board of management and parents association of N.S Cillian Liath to maintain and improve the school facilities. All this work helps in the enjoyment and safety of these young children through their early years in education.

In 2019 RSS and TÚS participants built a new secure storage shed on site to store an oil tank for the central heating system and for storing gardening/maintenance equipment safely.

The classroom on the east facing gable had an issue with dampness which the participants from both schemes dry lined, plastered and painted which fixed this problem. The RSS & TÚS participants have recently painted all internal doors, skirting's and architraves to give the rooms a fresh bright look. The play area has also been painted using stencils which have designs to encourage exercise and fun for the children.

The work plan for 2020 includes: paint 2 classrooms and all the toilets during school holidays, lower the coat hangers in the infants room, make and fit new shelving for the office, a new concrete capping around the wall of basketball court to replace the damaged /broken one, paint and treat timbers on raised beds of school vegetable garden, clear off area that's rough and uneven at end of new shed and level out with topsoil to make it safer.

All this work will be done alongside the cutting of football field and other ongoing maintenance that takes place annually. RSS and TÚS Participants from the Dromid area do a lot of this work in the school as It's close their homes which helps to reduce travel time and expense, but also because their local school is kept looking its best for the next generation of the parish.

Valentia Island Lighthouse

Valentia Island Lighthouse (VIL) is located at Cromwell point Valentia Island; it is a tourist attraction and is open to the public since 2013. The Lighthouse was opened by Valentia Island Development Company (VIDC). They recognized an opportunity to raise some much needed funds to develop the dwindling Tourism industry and create employment on Valentia Island. They knew the project had potential when they saw the success of Hook head Lighthouse in County Wexford open since 1996 and Loop head Lighthouse in county Clare opened in 2011. They were also able use the Lease/license structure that they used with Commissioner of Irish Lights (CIL). VIDC is a not for profit company dedicated to ensuring a sustainable future for the community on Valentia island. Some of the current initiatives include delivery of a Comprehensive tourism strategy the opening of Valentia Island Tourist Office and the Development of the old Cable station into a digital hub and Tourist attraction.

VIDC have wide range of projects in development at once so they decided to give four of their existing members the task of establishing a Lighthouse committee to get the project up and running as a social Enterprise. Valentia island Lighthouse is a community initiative delivered by VIDC in collaboration with Kerry County Council (KCC) and CIL with the support of South Kerry Development Partnership (SKDP). Without the collaboration of these four stakeholders it would not have been possible to open the Lighthouse. VIL is still in very early stages of its overall development but it has achieved a lot of its goals in a short period of time. In its first year of operation the lighthouse paid for all its initial setup cost. The Lighthouse has also given the Tourist office a financial boost by paying it an annual fee to take care of the administration side of the project and to bank the takings. This has given the Tourist office a vital source of income to help them to continue to support the business of Valentia dependent on tourism. In 2019 the Lighthouse employed its first fulltime manager for the project and secured €120,000 funding for the development of interpretation.

South Kerry Development partnership has given the Lighthouse Massive support through the RSS and TÚS programmes, Before the Lighthouse was able to open there was a lot of works to be completed so the Lighthouse would comply with Health and Safety. The participants on the RSS and TÚS were brought in to complete these works. They put up safety railings and signage, lay new paths and built and erected a ticket kiosk for the Gate and since the opening of the lighthouse in 2013 the RSS and TÚS have been responsible for all the maintenance and development works at the Lighthouse, which includes the full restoration of the old lighthouse keepers dwelling 3 bedroom house into a museum and tea rooms.

The RSS and TÚS are also responsible for the day to day running of the site as a tourist attraction and the Tea room. The Participants work as guides, they show Tourist around the site and up on to the balcony at the top of the Lighthouse, they also sell tickets at the gate. The Lighthouse is open seven days a week from 10:30 in the morning to 06:00 in the evening from April 1st to October 31st and there are 3 guides on site at all times. The Lighthouse has gone from strength to strength, in 2013 six thousand people paid the entry fee at the gate and last year over eighteen thousand people went into the lighthouse. I think this is testament to the hard work of both the RSS and TÚS participants and the Lighthouse Committee.



South Kerry Development Partnership CLG - RSS and Tús Supervisors

SOUTH KERRY DEVELOPMENT
PARTNERSHIP CLG.



SKDP Supervisors front row left to right; Mary Clifford, Rosaire McGillicuddy, Joseph McCrohan RSS and Tús Manager, Breda O Shea, Adrian Griffin, and middle row left to right Paudie O Shea, John McCrohan, Lisa Murphy, Donal McCarthy, back row left to right Concubhair Lyne, David O Neill, Breda Keating and Ger Moynihan.

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