

KINVARA NEWSLETTER

JUNE /JULY 2008

Viewed from Outside

“When we first heard the words “The World Trade Center has come down and Washington is being evacuated” we of course, did not believe what we were hearing. We were on the smallest of the Aran Islands waiting for the boat to take us back when we heard those terrible words. It did not become certain for us until we arrived back on the mainland and turned the car radio on. Even then it was difficult to comprehend what had happened. Reality eventually struck home. At the time we were living in New York and the news hit us especially hard. That evening, having returned to our B&B (Barn Lodge), there was a knock at our door. It was Angela Larkin and she graciously invited us to share dinner with her family. That was our first encounter with Irish compassion and generosity, but definitely not the last. The people of Kinvara will always remain special in our hearts because of the way they treated us during those difficult days. Kinvara has become our favourite place to visit, not only because of its natural beauty and charm, but especially for the wonderful people who reside there. I have often said to my wife that if we had to be anywhere else in the world during that horrific time, we were in the right place in Kinvara. We note with some dismay the encroaching “progress” that has surrounded Kinvara and we hope and pray that the village, we have come to call our own, will not give way to modern “improvements”. We do so hope that our next visit will find Kinvara intact and flourishing, at least as much as the residents wish it to be”.

Sincerely, Mary Ann Flynn and Jim Malone

Cuckoo Fun Run

Kinvara Community Council would like to thank the sponsors of the 1st and 2nd prizes of 100 each for the Cuckoo Fun Run. They were Sian Morgan of Healing Harvest and Brian McMahon, Auctioneers. Over 1,200 was raised for the outstanding debt on the Community Centre roof.

Community Council AGM

The next Kinvara Community Council meeting will be at 8.30 p.m. on Thursday, 19th June. This will be the Annual General Meeting and all are welcome.

If you have news items for the August/September Newsletter contact Pam at 091 637460

Kinvara’s ‘Inner Ring Road’

Galway County Council approved the proposal for Kinvara’s ‘Inner Ring Road’ on 28th April. None of the points made by the Community Council and some 40 other objectors had been accommodated. The only change made was to move the road a few yards east at the entrance just beyond the Ardrahan road. Under the 2001 Planning Act there is no further right of appeal.

At a well attended public meeting on 15th May, considerable disquiet and anger was expressed and parallels were drawn with the way in which the Co. Council had also ignored local opinion when drawing up the Town Plan. It was thought that in both cases the Co. Council had merely gone through the legal procedures of consultation with Kinvara without having any real intention of altering their own plans.

Apart from the issue as to whether the road was needed at all, the Co. Council ignored the persuasive point that both it’s and Community’s Town Plan intended to draw the Castle closer to the village. Exiting the road at Dungaigue Cottages does the precise opposite. The issue of the road being financed by developers and requiring the construction of some 500 houses along its route to make it worth their while was also not addressed. This would breach the principle of both Town Plans, that the town should not more than double in a decade.

The meeting directed these and other concerns be expressed in a letter to the Director of Planning. It was also pointed out that the traffic survey purporting to demonstrate the need for the road, was conducted last Easter Sunday, 3 weeks after the road plan was published and a week before the deadline for objections. Questions were thus raised on the motivation behind the road and how the Co. Council had dealt with it, and the Community Council was asked to investigate the matter under the ‘freedom of information’ legislation.

Doorus Orchard Project

If you haven’t seen this garden restoration, community orchard yet then this is your chance. On Sunday, 15th June, a mid-summer picnic is being held. This walled-in garden is at the back of the An Oige Youth Hostel in Doorus, near Tracht beach. You can come and help weed around the trees and generally tidy up, or just bring the kids and some grub and have a picnic in this beautiful space. You will see some 50 types of old irish apples a growing, and more. From noon to 3 p.m., you’re more than welcome. For more information about this Heritage Council funded project or for directions phone Lynn at 091 638099.

Kinvara and District Credit Union - Toddie Byrne Scholarship

The Credit Union is now inviting eligible students who intend commencing third level education this year to apply for the €1,000 Toddie Byrne Scholarship. The

Credit Union is also offering special low interest (5.5%) loans to students and to the Community Groups and schools. Conditions and full details can be obtained from the Credit Union office.

Boats Afloat - Meitheal na mBadoiri

Do you remember? Some 18 Kinvara people started building two traditional clinker-built sailing boats in September 2006. Now, in 2008 these two boats are already starting their second season in Kinvara bay bringing fun, a bit of work, and sailing skills to the members and their friends. A third boat of the same type, built by one of the group members, also joined in last season. During the Cruinniu na mBad in 2007 Kinvara's boats, together with boats of the same class from Spiddal set sail. A fleet of 8 self-built traditional boats in Kinvara bay with their red and white sails was a beautiful sight. For members Dave, Stephen and Vincent this was only the beginning and they started a new project restoring a Pucan, supervised as was the first project by Jim Horgan from Spiddal. This boat was built in 1919 and worked for its first owner for 66 years. We hope to see it in the bay soon. For further information please visit www.boatbuilding-kinvara.eu or call Stephen on 087 2332322 or Gerhard 091 635683

Facilities for our Elderly

The Community Council has now set up a group to investigate the possibility of providing more facilities for older people. The group meet regularly and are presently looking for a venue to provide a weekly drop-in or coffee meeting, music and chat. They are also considering starting an Active Retirement Group. All those who would like to help please contact Paul on 087 1330336

Kinvara Farmers' Market - Update

At the time of going to press, Kinvara Farmers' Market has still not been granted a licence. The indications from Galway Co. Co. are that Kinvara Market Square is not suitable for a market, contrary to the Local Area Plan, and other sites are now being explored. K.F.M. are extremely disappointed with this decision and have now decided to get up a petition. With this in mind on Friday 11th July at 10.00 a.m. in Market Square Kinvara, we hope to set up a stall with bells, balloons, whistles and music, and have our petition available to sign. There will be teas, coffees and cakes for sale. Please come and support this event by visiting our stall, buying our wares and signing our petition.

Celebration of Kinvara Artists

Mary Nadon O'Neill, from Detroit arrived in Kinvara in early 2002. Since then she has really made her mark in the area. Mary designed the mural on the slipway in Kinvara called Amhran na Mara (Song of the Sea) helped by funding from the Heritage Council. Mary is an artist/teacher and has been teaching many different groups for the past five years, encouraging them to develop their artistic and creative skills at all levels. For the third year running, Mary and her pupils

wish to share their work by displaying paintings and drawings throughout the town. The exhibition will open on Saturday, 28th June in the Café on the Quay, where one item from each pupil will be hung. Also there will be paintings displayed in most shop windows in town until Saturday July 12th.

In conjunction with this exhibition, 8 of Mary's painting pupils are having an independent exhibition, with paintings for sale in Johnston's Hall, Kinvara opening on Friday, 27th June at 7.30 p.m. and running until Sunday, 29th June at 8.00 p.m. Please come and share the joy of the creative process that Mary has instilled in her pupils.

Bottle Bank

The bottle bank provides a valuable part in the recycling of glass in the village and it would be a pity if we were to lose it. However, some folk dispose of their general rubbish at this site and this has led to problems and concerns prompting the Community Council to write to Galway Co. Council asking for their help in maintaining the site and the installation of a C.C.T.V. camera, as in Gort - the rest is up to us.

Out on an Edge

An exhibition of Frank Sanford's recent paintings will be held in the Russell Gallery, Newquay from Saturday, 5th July (evening opening).

Keeping it Clean

Kinvara Tidy Towns Group meet every second Saturday outside the National School at 9 a.m. and do one hour of litter collection around the town. A big problem is cigarette ends outside pubs. They are planning to source red buckets with sand in them and will ask the publicans to place them where smokers congregate. People are now working on all the flower beds. The St. Joseph's Parents Group are looking after the large flower bed outside the school. They also plan to paint the benches along the Quay, possibly red to match the railings. All helpers are welcome. Contact Clare on 087 6537898 for more information.