

CCJ ONLINE MAGAZINE

happy halloween



Issue 34
Autumn 2021

If you aren't building a social enterprise, I don't know what your business model will be in 5 years.



Community Finance Ireland announces
All Island Sports Fund



Connected Hubs Overview



Social Enterprise Profile
Yvonne Kieran Tully profiles the Inniskeen Enterprise Development Group.



Communities Working Together
Promoting Business Enterprise, Partnership and Social Inclusion



More Success for Dunhill Producers

Also, in this Issue
Social Enterprise News from around the country.

Upcoming Annual Social Enterprise Conference to be held at Dunhill Thursday November 18th

Social Enterprise World Forum, (SEWF), Conference held in September

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Designer and Editor

Malcolm Paull Murphy



After leaving school at 15 and working in a variety of jobs, including cinema projectionist, builder’s labourer, pub & craft shop manager, and as a TEFL teacher in Paris, Malcolm enrolled at NUI Maynooth as a Mature Student and achieved degrees in English & History. He worked for a time with ‘*innuendo*’ magazine in Dublin and has been with Dr. Senan Cooke at Dunhill EcoPark for two years. Last year he assumed responsibility for the design and editing of the CCJ Online Magazine. He is a published poet and is currently working on a *History of the People of Castlerea*. He plans to continue at the EcoPark where there are several new projects under development. Malcolm is also about to embark on a Level 7 Certificate in Social Enterprise through WIT.

If you have any comments on any article in this issue of our magazine or indeed any article you would like to submit or feel we should be covering, we would love to hear from you. Please feel free to get in touch with Malcolm at theccjoffice@gmail.com or on 089 252 9885. Also visit us below:





Editorial

By Dr. Senan Cooke

With winter- time approaching many social enterprises involved in community services, projects, facilities, infrastructure, and employment take centre stage. They become critically important in maintaining social and economic cohesion as the days shorten and night-time expands. The



management of **Covid**, more testing weather conditions, longer night times and the regular red-light events associated with the winter season require special attention. **Social enterprise** based on community collaboration and co-operation will ensure we all emerge in the springtime of **2022** in the best condition, physically, mentally, and emotionally.

The high awareness and silent commitment of **the volunteer** will ensure that basic human needs receive proper attention. Immediate responses will come from within the community and state agency sector.

The value and contribution of **Community Employment, TUS and Rural Social Schemes** workers should not be underestimated. With **16% unemployment** and with the mountains of work that is available to be done every available person should be accommodated. **A Social Enterprise Officer** as a permanent one stop shop of information, support and guidance would also be an invaluable resource. A **SEO** would develop a file on each social enterprise and act as advisor, mentor ensuring the best possible results from the enterprise. The SEO would minimise any disruption on retirement or changes in agency staff and community project volunteers. This resource would service information, governance, planning and funding needs of social enterprises. Over time each county would have a shared learning network online and in person that would support social enterprises within the county. **State agencies, departments and social enterprises** could all contribute to building it up. It is something for government

agencies to think about and act on as winter approaches.

Immediate responses will come from within the community and state agency sector

Ireland has a long and storied history of volunteering. According to the most recent CSO data, over 1 million people in Ireland volunteer. This is over a quarter of the adult population. Ireland is also rated Number 1 in Europe and Number 10 in the world for volunteering time on the World Giving Index.

Age Group	Record Count	Percentage
16-17	515	3%
18-22	544	4%
23-35	6,542	44%
36-49	2,917	20%
50-64	1,437	10%
Other	2,875	19%

Above: A graph of volunteering in Ireland showing volunteers by age.

“Volunteers are not paid-not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless”.
(Anon)

Connected Hubs Overview

By Allan Mulrooney

The **National Hub Network Working Group** led by the **Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD)** has identified and mapped over **400 remote** working hubs across the country. These hubs are being invited to join the **Connectedhubs.ie** platform to create a shared infrastructure that will deliver real benefits across the country. The **Western Development Commission** is project managing this initiative on behalf of DRCD.

These hubs have multiple uses. They act as community hubs, enterprise centres, innovations spaces, co-working & hot-desking locations, and are an important part of the support system for early stage, rurally based companies, and entrepreneurs to grow and develop.

The project will help create an ecosystem from the existing hubs. It will **promote, market, and showcase** the profile of the hubs within the communities they are located in and beyond.

The **WDC** also sees the hub network playing a vital role in the growing trend towards remote working as a means of attracting workers back to rural locations. Blended working has the potential to increase occupancy rates and turnover of the hubs, contributing to their sustainability and thereby assisting in the revitalisation of communities and supporting the move to a low carbon society.

The Multiple Uses of Hubs

1. Community Hubs
2. Enterprise Centres
3. Innovation Spaces
4. Co-Working/Hot-Desking Locations

The **Connectedhubs.ie** platform offers a suite of booking, hub management and e-commerce applications to members of the **National Hub Network**. This suite of back-office **ICT** infrastructure aims to ease the burden of hub management and facilitate the creation of the network and ongoing participation in it.



The network will facilitate the sharing of innovation, experience, and best practices across the **Irish hub community**. These supports will serve to maximize benefit to member hubs, hub clients, employers, local communities, and the wider economy. The network will also help hub managers to support their clients, encourage participation at events and sharing of best practice in hub management. It will also provide clear routes to further supports and, in the longer term, build a pipeline of innovation in communities.



Tomás Ó Síocháin, CEO of the Western Development Commission, (pictured left), said *“The Connected Hubs Network is a critical element in enterprise and employment creation, economic restructuring, urban and rural regeneration, and attracting investment and*

talent to more rural locations. These hubs facilitate innovation and enterprise which can attract foreign direct investment and scaling indigenous businesses to local regions.”

Continuing on Tomás said *“More recently we have seen the pandemic rapidly accelerate the evolution of remote working. Research by the Western Development Commission and **NUI Galway** has shown the vast majority wish to continue to work remotely and enjoy the flexibility and autonomy it offers. The Connected Hubs platform offers the facilities and community of office life without the commute and will assist companies and their employees by allowing greater flexibility to blend home, office and hub working. This in turn, will increase staff well-*



being and retention, and help them maintain productivity in a suitable working environment.”

“By having a platform to book these hubs, people now have the freedom and flexibility to transform their workday by reducing their commute to their employer’s workplace, while still reaping the benefits of working in an office setting. From Carndonagh to Bundoran in Donegal to Sneem in Kerry, members of the public now have the freedom to work in any hub of their choosing.”

Stephen Carolan, (pictured right) Enterprise Hubs Project Manager for the Western Development Commission said *“We’d like to thank all the stakeholders and members of hub management that have worked with us over the last 18 months in the creation and development of the Connected Hubs Platform.*



We are honoured to have been able to collaborate with them on a network that will connect communities and maximise local employment opportunities. It is their voices that have been critical in shaping the network and the underpinning policy that will continue to shape it in the future.”

“By having a platform to book these hubs, people now have the freedom and flexibility to transform their workday by reducing their commute”.

-Tomas O’Siochain-

Social Enterprise Policy Objectives & Definition

Policy Objectives

Building Awareness

Growing & Strengthening Social Enterprise

Achieving Better Policy Alignment

Department of Rural & Community Development.
New Social Enterprise policy was launched on July 18, 2019, by Minister Michael Ring, TD, in Speedpack, Coolock, Dublin

Social Enterprise Definition

A Social Enterprise is an enterprise whose objective is to achieve social, societal, or environmental impact, rather than maximising profit for its owners & shareholders.

It pursues its objectives by trading on an ongoing basis through the provision of goods and/or services, and by reinvesting surpluses into achieving social objectives

It is governed in a fully accountable & transparent manner, and it is independent of the public sector. If dissolved it should transfer its assets to another organisation with a similar mission.

Shuttle Knit

Knitting Communities Together

By Susan Heavey, (Operations Mgr.), & Niamh Graydon, (Sales Mgr.).

Shuttle Knit is a not-for-profit **Social Enterprise** that designs and manufactures quality hand knit woollen garments, makes cotton face masks, and offers embroidery services. We then sell these products throughout Ireland in retail outlets and craft markets, internationally and online

The founding aim of the organisation is to facilitate partnerships between **Travellers and the settled community**, and to **address social exclusion** experienced by its members. The business provides a safe, supportive working environment for its employees and helps them to feel part of something positive. In doing so it promotes **Traveller Pride** in their own identity, and shares business experience with the wider **Travelling Community**.

Shuttle Knit began when **Sister Catriona Geraghty** invited Traveller women into her home in the **Ballyguile** council estate in **Wicklow** in the **mid-1990s**. This group identified a need for training and development opportunities for Traveller women in the area. They developed and received **EU funding** for training. From this experience, Shuttle Knit was founded by a partnership of Traveller and settled women as a **Company Limited by Guarantee**, with a board of directors, in **2001**.

Travellers, like other nomadic people across **Europe**, have faced centuries of personal and **systemic discrimination**. Government policies have always tried to *'settle'* them, effectively disregarding and criminalising their culture and way of life. These policies have had adverse effects on their lives.

In **2017** the **ESRI** in conjunction with the **Irish Human Rights & Equality Commission** published a report titled *"A social Portrait of Travellers in Ireland"* showing Irish Travellers are **ten times more likely** than White Irish to experience discrimination when seeking work. Additional research has shown that there is high interest in entering the labour market within in the Traveller community. The **All-Ireland Traveller Health Study 2010** found that only

4.8% of Travellers in the Republic of Ireland were employed or self-employed. Nine out of ten employers said they would not hire a Traveller. One in three Traveller women (**32.7%**) are solely responsible for looking after the home and family, nearly twice the rate of the general population. Now, in Ireland, **50% of Travellers do not live beyond the age of thirty-nine**. It was not always like this.

Traditionally, Traveller women worked within the Traveller economy as part of the family unit involved in income generation. This included selling door to door and at markets, fairs etc. however recent legislation (**e.g., the causal**



trading act 1995 & the Market Trading Act) has seen this severely in decline with little or no other opportunities within the labour market replacing it. This has left many Traveller women unemployed and living on social welfare.



"We Traveller Women have many skills, like knitting and sewing. We learned to knit from our mothers and grandmothers, and continue to do so today, although now with hand machines".

There are few employment opportunities for the **375 Travellers** living around Wicklow Town. Shuttle Knit facilitates the employment and empowerment of women Travellers so they may achieve their goals with respect for their culture. In doing so it promotes **Traveller Pride** in their own identity, and shares business experience with the wider Travelling Community.

Shuttle Knit employs twelve women knitters part-time and two job sharing Managers. These staffing positions are part-funded by the Government (**Department of Rural and Community Development through Pobal's Community Services Programme**). Employees are part of the local Travelling Community in Wicklow, and in some cases from the same family (**two mother-daughter pairs**). We are very fortunate to be located in the **CEART** building in Wicklow, which is owned by Wicklow Travellers Group. **CEART** means *'correct' or 'right,'* and also refers to a cart or wagon, and the building is in the shape of a wagon wheel. CEART also stands for *Centre for Equality and Resource for Travellers*. The location is very much part of the community, and thus feels like a *'safe space'* where everyone is welcome. Shuttle Knit contributes to raising a positive profile of the Traveller community. The enterprise combats the negative stereotyping of

Travellers by showcasing their creativity and innovation.

In March 2017, the Irish Government officially recognised Travellers as an **ethnic minority**, and thus protected from discrimination according to human rights law, at least in principle. In **2019**, the Irish Government set up a **Joint Oireachtas Committee** and issued a report on *"Key Issues Affecting the Travelling Community"*. **And in 2020**, **Senator Eileen Flynn** became the **first Traveller to serve in the Irish government**. Times are changing, and Shuttle Knit wants to help drive that change.

Our aim is to create and promote our range of **beautiful, indigenous, and sustainable knitwear**. Our products are designed and knit by our own staff of Irish Traveller women, and are showcased at national and local events, on our website and at our premises in Wicklow Town. We hope to grow our business further, so that we can expand employment opportunities for Travellers both locally, and nationally and enhance our social impact.

Shuttle Knit recently had a visit from **Minister Simon Harris**, (*pictured below*), to celebrate being awarded the **ReThink Social Enterprise Development fund**. We hope that the award of this fund will help us to increase awareness of our social enterprise and help us to grow and achieve our aims.



"I love seeing someone wearing a shawl that we make. I am proud of being a Traveller, but I don't want to advertise it either. It's hard."

As a customer the choices you make can help to rebuild our economy post-Covid. Together we can make a difference and do the best we can with the money we spend. Buy from our gorgeous range in the knowledge that we invest back into the community.



Visit Our Online Shop at
www.shuttleknit.ie

Click the icons to visit us on Facebook & Instagram.

Call us on 0404 25641

E-mail our Sales Manager, Niamh at
sales@shuttleknit.ie



**Community Finance Ireland
Launches €/£5 million All Island Sports Fund**



On the back of the **Olympics, Paralympics** and a summer of sporting features that saw the trickle back of fans being able to attend games, the importance of sport as a means of offering opportunity and addressing rural decline were some of the subjects discussed at the **CFI Sports Webinar** earlier this month.



Pictured at the launch of **CFI Sports Fund** were, **L-R:** Brendan Boyce, *Olympian*, Anne Graham, *CFI Client Relationship Manager*, Patsy McGonagle, *Finn Valley FC Donegal* and Michael McGarrigle, *Vice Chair Community Finance Ireland*.

Lucky attendees got to hear our guest panelists which included **Joanne O’Riordan, Irish Times Sports Journalist and Activist, Brendan Boyce Olympic Racewalker** plus **Anne Graham CFI Client Relationship Manager**. Our sports fund is open for applications so if your local sporting club is looking to build, attract new members or increase accessibility to sport – we are ready to listen.

In other news, our “**listening skills**” were published via the **2021 Community Finance Ireland Annual Report**. Over **169 communities** and social enterprises availed of our social finance service. Our **Group Chief Executive, Donal Traynor, (pictured top right)**, said:

“2020 was an extraordinary year for the history of our organisation and for the communities and citizens on the island of Ireland. The combined market conditions of Brexit and Covid left us all a little shaken. Yet it also stirred in us a reminder of the importance of access to social finance and the resilience of communities across our shared island”.



**2021 Community Finance Ireland
Annual Report**



Other important news for clients looking for social finance support in **Munster** is that thanks to our ever-growing client base, **Nora Keogh, (pictured**

above), has joined our team. We were delighted to welcome her to our family earlier in the summer. Nora is based in **Limerick** and is a member of the local **Newcastle West Cycling Club**, and recently completed the **Ring of Beara** in **Cork** to help raise money for the **Alzheimer’s Society**.

You can reach out to her directly here:
<https://communityfinanceireland.com/story/>

With a client portfolio, whose core assets are predominately its volunteers, our team speak finance but hear people. And we are here to support on:

- Keeping your doors open.
- Pivoting your business. Ensuring your viability when your services may be needed more than ever.
- Ensuring your sustainability as the island transitions to a new normal.

Contact Community Finance Ireland
HERE



More Awards for Dunhill Producers Small Businesses Recognised for their Excellence

It has been a very prolific few months for Dunhill food and craft producers. **Trish's Honey Products** and **Vivien O'Malley Ceramics**, both based in the **Dunhill EcoPark**,



have yet again proved their excellence, and found themselves on the prestigious shortlist for the **2021 Irish Country**

Magazine's Irish Made Awards. **116** finalists have been selected from over **400** entries across **ten categories**. Trish's Honey Products has been nominated in the **'Beauty'** category while Vivien O'Malley Ceramics has been shortlisted in the **'Home'** category. Voting closed on **September 14th** and the winners will be announced at a ceremony in **November**. Our **Christmas issue**, in **early December**, will carry the results.



The overall winner will receive an advertising package worth **€6000** from the Irish Country Magazine, membership of **Guaranteed Irish** for one year and a mentoring session, valued at **€5000** as well as automatic participation in **Design & Craft Council, Ireland's Design, Ireland B2B** programmes and supports. The Irish Country Magazine will feature all category winners and runners-up in a **special edition in October**.

Paul Ryan, Barefoot Farm, also based in Dunhill, has scooped one of the **Chef's choice** awards in the **Chef's Larder** category at the highly regarded **Blas na hEireann** food awards. As Paul said, *"to say we are delighted would be an understatement as it just proves the hard work has been worthwhile"*. **Irish Gourmet Butter**, no stranger to these awards, also took



home a **silver award**.

There was also good news for **Little Thai Kitchen** which were one of five Irish food producers to have been **chosen from 209 Food Academy** suppliers to be showcased in **SuperValu** stores for a three-week period. The producers are part of **SuperValu's Food Academy Programme** that is run in conjunction with **Bord Bia** and the **Local Enterprise Office**. The chosen five will see their products on sale across **150 stores nationwide**. Now in its eighth year, Food Academy is a unique food business development programme. Participants in the programme receive training in food safety, market research and branding, marketing, finance, sustainability, and business development.



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Special congratulations to **Aine McCarthy-Kent**, (pictured left), who has a long association with the **Dunhill EcoPark**. Aine was the driving force behind the **Copper Coast TradFest** which had to be shelved due to **Covid** and is also behind the annual **Tradchestra** events in **Tramore** every year. Recently Aine completed, with distinction, a **Level 7 Certificate in Social Enterprise Management** through **WIT**. Never one to let the grass grow, Aine is also a newly qualified Life Coach. Her contact details are opposite.

Dunhill Artisan Products Continue to Win Awards for Excellence

CLICK THE LINKS FOR MORE INFORMATION



Trish's Honey Products
<https://trishshoneyproducts.com/>

Vivien O'Malley Ceramics
<https://www.vivienomalleyceramics.com/>

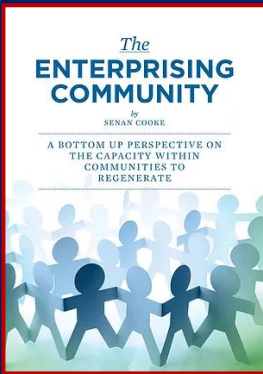
Little Thai Kitchen
<https://www.littlethaikitchen.ie/>

Barefoot Farm
[Barefoot Farm on Facebook](#)

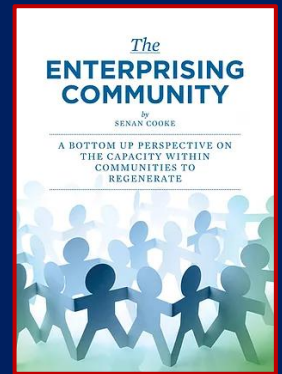
Dunhill Award Winners: Barefoot Farm Blas na hEireann award, Irish Gourmet Butter, Trish's Honey Beauty Products, Little Thai Kitchen, Vivien O'Malley Ceramics, and a view of the Bare Foot Farm Food Tunnel.

The Enterprising Community

By Dr Senan Cooke



Senan has spent over 30 years directly involved in Social Enterprise, start-ups, consolidation, and expansion. He has consulted widely at home and overseas to produce this highly regarded book on social enterprise. The book is the go-to text for all those working in social enterprise in communities and for state agency staff who are supporting them.



“As a community, we in DCU would argue that Ireland has a natural affinity with social enterprise. Indeed, we believe that we can become leaders in the development of social enterprise at a European level over the next decade”.

President Brian Mac Craith – Dublin City University



“The book illustrates a critically important issue for Irish society today, that of social entrepreneurship, and provides readers with a roadmap for the development and enrichment of communities throughout our country and beyond”.

Profs. Gerry McNamara & Joe O'Hara-Dublin City University



“Rural Ireland needs people; people need jobs. Jobs mean local enterprise, community, sporting, and cultural clubs. In this book, Senan outlines what has been achieved....and more importantly, what can be achieved in the future”.

Mr. Sean Kelly, MEP

The Enterprising Community contains numerous case studies on rural and urban regeneration. It is the recognised text in third level colleges running relevant community development and rural regeneration programmes. To order your copy, or avail of special student rates for the book, please contact Malcolm at

theccjoffice@gmail.com or on 089 252 9885

Social Enterprise World Forum, (SEFW) 2021

By Malcolm Paull Murphy



The Social Enterprise World Forum of 2008 was the first event of its kind. Held in **Edinburgh** it brought together some **400 delegates** from **29 countries**. On foot of the success of this event, and the knowledge that it was such a good opportunity for social enterprise practitioners and leaders to share ideas and get to know each other, it was decided that such an event would be held on each continent.

Following these events, the need and value of **SEFW** would be reviewed in the context of the promotion of social enterprise internationally

In the years since, practitioners from over **50 countries** have engaged with SEWF at events held in such places as **Addis Ababa, Rio de Janeiro, Seoul, San Francisco, and Christchurch.**

2020 saw the event held digitally due to **Covid** but it still turned out to be the biggest global event to date.

At this year's Forum, **SERI, (Social Enterprise Republic of Ireland)**, were well represented. Several board members attended many important sessions. Among them was **Lorraine Corcoran** from **Afanite** who attended a *Social Procurement Session* with panellists from **Australia, Malaysia, and the UK**. Among the topics discussed was the importance of having a quality product and how service and quality are the keys to success.

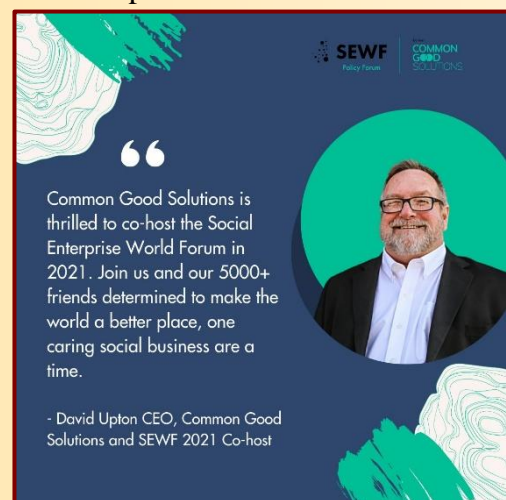
Another SERI board member, **Shauna McClenaghan** from **Inishowen Development Partnership**, attended three sessions.

1. **Environment, Food & Nature.**
2. **Social Enterprises leading the way in the Creative Economy.**
3. **Climate Change Collaboration: Social Enterprises.**

Speakers at the above came from **Kenya, Nepal, Canada, Pakistan** as well as other **European countries and Canada**. The different approaches by governments towards funding was discussed as well as education policy and the need for awareness- building and the levels of isolation for some working in the sector experience.

There were contributions from **Canada** on navigating climate change through technology and how change must be led by local people.

There were discussions on **conservation, social justice, climate emergency and regeneration** as well as the importance of **collective action.**



More information on the 2021 Social Enterprise World Forum can be found at the following links.

**SEFW 2021
SEWF EVENT REPORT
SOCIAL ENTERPRISE WORLD
FORUM 2021
SOCIAL ENTERPRISE REPUBLIC
OF IRELAND, (SERI).**



Social Enterprise Profile:

Inniskeen Enterprise Development Group

By Yvonne Kieran Tully



Inniskeen Enterprise Development Group was founded in **1993** by a group of visionary community members in the small village of Inniskeen in **South County Monaghan**.

They are a voluntary

community group which came together for its first public meeting in **1987**, however, it was not until **March 1993** when they sought and were granted charitable status, under the registered name of ***Inniskeen Enterprise Development Group Ltd (IEDG)***, **Patrick Kavanagh Centre**, at the registered address of ***St. Mary's Old Church, Candlefort, Inniskeen, Co. Monaghan***.

The purpose for setting up this social enterprise in Inniskeen was to provide for, and promote, the memory of local well known **Irish** poet, **Patrick Kavanagh**, and to create an understanding of his literary works and the influence of his Inniskeen background on such works through the provision of a literary resource centre, in the premises of **St. Mary's Old Church Inniskeen**. The group also sought to **provide education and awareness** of the cultural and historic heritage of the **North Louth** and **South Monaghan** area, together with providing economic development for the parish of Inniskeen.



Inniskeen Village Signpost

In **1994** the group established the **Patrick Kavanagh Centre** which is housed in the old catholic church in the graveyard in Inniskeen and

has been responsible for its day to day running for over the past **twenty-six years**. The group also set up the **"Poets Rest"** coffee shop and was involved in the running of a number of key charitable events on an annual basis in conjunction with the Patrick Kavanagh Society, such as, **The Annual Kavanagh Weekend, Poetry Weekend, Writers Weekend** and **Inniskeen Road Festival**, other activities included **Poetry Competitions – All Ireland for Second Level Students** and **Annual Patrick Kavanagh Poetry Awards**.



Patrick Kavanagh's Birthplace.

Many of the founding members of the group are still involved to date. A special mention to local man and neighbour of Patrick Kavanagh, **Peter Murphy** now in his **94th year** who has dedicated so much of his time and expertise to the group from the beginning. I am told he still makes an appearance at the centre and contributes to the work of **IEDG**. **The Chairman** of the group is **Art Agnew** from the neighbouring parish of **Shelagh**, a former English teacher who was Principal of **St. Louis Secondary school** in Carrickmacross until **2005** and with a very keen interest in the arts.

A conversation with one of the directors, **Mr. Brian Dooley** gave me a great insight into how the group began, some of their projects which have brought social impact to the community and their future projects to come. Brian, a very proud Inniskeen man, who like all others actively involved in their community gives his time, knowledge, skill, and experience so willingly to the community in a bid to make it a better place

for those who live in the area and for those who visit it for now and many more years to come.

I began by asking Brian, *how did IEDG and The Patrick Kavanagh Centre come about back in 1993?* Brian, a man with a fascinating memory and a great ability to tell a story, started at the beginning, telling me that the old chapel dating back to **1820**, had been replaced with a new church in the **1970's**. There was many a conversion, he recalled, back then about what will happen the old church now. There was talk of taking the stained-glass windows out to sell them and then demolish the building. Brian, a man whose heart has always been in the community and a man with a love for the arts, culture and heritage like others felt this was not the right decision.

At this time the Patrick Kavanagh Society was up and running since **1971**, their events were hosted in hotels outside of the community. The group which came to be the **IEDG** was formed with the view to maintain and restore this church to a meeting place not of prayer but of literacy and celebration of the works of Patrick Kavanagh, who is regarded as one of the **foremost Irish Poets of the 20th century**. They felt there was a need for this in the community, one that would benefit both the local and wider communities **socially and economically** and it seemed fitting to set it up in the place Kavanagh used to go to mass in his younger years.

Once the group secured a **99-year lease** on the disused church building, work began in securing a much-needed funds. Funds were secured from the **International Fund for Ireland**, as part of a cross border initiative, **Monaghan County Council**, and a loan of from **Monaghan County Enterprise Board**. These monies were used to repair and restore the church to a useable state again and develop a visitor centre which would exhibit the life and works of Patrick Kavanagh, a talented man from the area who was often described by locals as *“odd.”*

The Patrick Kavanagh Centre was officially opened in **June 1994** by **President Mary Robinson** under the management of **IEDG**. The Group did not staff the centre, it was run entirely by volunteers and funding schemes who offered



St. Mary's Old Church, The Patrick Kavanagh Centre, Inniskeen

the centre the facility of having an administrator. **FAS** funded two part time staff, a caretaker and a receptionist, and an **Enterprise Director, Carol Lambe**. Carol was funded by FAS to assist with the development of the centre and the Centre's programme of events.

The total cost of the restoration work and the development of the exhibition was approximately **€350,000**. **Twenty-five per cent (87,500)** of this amount was raised in the local community. A lot of fundraising was conducted in a bid to sustain the centre and keep its doors open, a car raffle and a weekly shared lotto to name a few. I caught up with another director, **Rosaleen Kearney** who remembers the early days, her allocated responsibility was as notetaker on the night of the first public meeting of the group back in the eighties. She recalls not having ever been on a committee prior to this. Yet, that did not deter her as she is very much a formidable part of the group, some **34 years on**. *“It was hard work”* she said, *“and I truly believe that voluntary work is not for the faint hearted.”*

The group charged an admission fee into the centre, casual visitors, dedicated Kavanagh Fans on bus tours, would be poets and groups of schoolchildren and colleges, all headed to learn more of the poet they admired, aspired to be, or were studying on their curriculum. At the time the group offered other services to the public in a bid to generate income; photocopying, typing, printing and faxing services together with providing advice and assistance with grant applications. The centre was also made available to rent for meetings and classes.

The building was restored beautifully, as can be seen in the picture. The centre offered visitors an experience which took them back in time, it **housed exhibitions** outlining Kavanagh's life story as well as the **history of the surrounding area**. It included a topographical model of the area, a model illustrating Kavanagh's poem "*A Christmas Childhood*" paintings and informational panels on the poet. At the time, the centre also housed a **60-seater audio visual theatre**, which was used to show films on Kavanagh, and as a stage for many a cultural night. The upstairs galleries on either side were the best seats on the night. I can safely say that from personal experience.



Inside the Patrick Kavanagh Centre, Picture from 1994

The centre also offered a **tour of Kavanagh Country** and still does, which takes in many local sites associated with the poet and his poetry and novels. It also has a **Patrick Kavanagh Trail Guide**. The **6 Kilometre** trail takes in many sites, some of which may be visited by the public whilst others can be viewed from the roadside, sites include **The Patrick Kavanagh Centre, Folk Museum and Round Tower, Railway Bridge, Billy Brennan's Barn, Slieve Gullion View, Kidnaminsha National School, and The Kavanagh Homestead to name a few**. The group have also connected the village to **The Monaghan Way**, a walking trail that started out in Monaghan town and finished at the Kavanagh Centre. The inscription on Kavanagh's graveside wooden cross, (*pictured top right*), will connect and resonate with any walker.



Patrick Kavanagh was laid to rest in **Inniskeen Graveyard** thus enriching the centres offering and allowing it to provide the complete experience of Kavanagh's life from his humble

beginnings to his humble, simple, and unsophisticated resting place, in the "*Stoney Grey Soil*".

Brian continued to bring me up to date on the current status of the group and the centre, the group are always actively **seeking funding under new initiatives** and were very lucky to secure a grant of over **€180,000** from the **Department of Rural and Community Development** under **Minister Humphrey's in 2020**. Prior to this, Monaghan County Council had approached the group seeking permission to take over the running and management of the centre in the form of a long-term lease. The group felt at this point they had brought the Patrick Kavanagh Centre as far as they could and that it seemed like the best option to hand it over and to focus their time and energy on other projects to **further develop** and improve the prosperity of **Inniskeen**.



Resting Place of Patrick Kavanagh, (1904-1967).



The Raglan Road Tea Room – Here we watch "*the bicycles go by in twos and threes*" on our Inniskeen Road

Monaghan County Council and **Failte Ireland** were further able to secure funding together with the funding secured previously by the group to a total of just over **€1 million euros**. This money was spent on the original Patrick Kavanagh Centre that **IEDG** saved from been demolished back in the day. I think it is testament to the group how far they have come and how much they have enriched the community and landscape of Inniskeen and its surroundings both socially and economically.



President [Michael D Higgins at the Patrick Kavanagh Centre in 2014 with IEDG members.

I asked Brian, if the centre could have continued without the income from grants and he was in no doubt that the group could **not sustain the centre without grant assistance and reliance**. This was also a pertinent point when considering handing over the management of the centre to Monaghan County Council. Brian added that the group continue to have regular income from the rental of the **Tea Room** and continue to seek grant aid for other projects which they have in the pipeline, namely: a boardwalk pedestrian bridge across the **River Fane**, placing a seat at the tearoom, a garden patch, together with the provision of more parking spaces in the village. He continued by saying that the group are looking forward to meeting in person again, restrictions permitting, and are anxious to enlist new members with fresh ideas and a keen interest in their local community to help them realise their community ambitions.

A special word of remembrance and thanks to the original seven founding members who without their foresight, drive, determination, and ambition, who knows where Patrick Kavanagh's legacy and works would have ended up. The original committee members back in the late eighties included the late **Fr. Peter**

McGuinness, P.P., Patsy McKenna, Oliver Keenan, Rosaleen Kearney, Gerry Thompson, the late Briege Brady and the late Gene Carroll. Then in **1993** when the Group formed as a **Limited Company** a number of new members joined the **Board of Directors: Larry McDermott, Brigid McKenna, Peter Murphy, Seamus Cassidy, and Mary Lennon**.

I finished by asking Brian, *what do you think Patrick Kavanagh would say if he could come back and see his own legacy?* To this Brian gave me a piece of poetry he wrote himself for **Kavanagh's 50th anniversary of his death in 2017, (see page 17)**, which was very apt. Enjoy.

The centre today looks very different to when it first opened its doors to the public in 1994. It is certainly worth a visit as is Inniskeen village and its surrounding hinterlands. You won't be disappointed.



The Refurbished Patrick Kavanagh Centre in 2020

For further information on the Patrick Kavanagh Centre

Please Contact.

**The Patrick Kavanagh Centre,
Inniskeen, Co. Monaghan.**

Telephone:

+353 42 937 8560

Email:

kavanaghcentre@monaghancoco.ie

Website: Kavanagh Centre:

[CLICK HERE](#)

Opening Hours:

Monday-Friday: 10.00 -16.30

Bank Holidays: 11.00-16.30



A special word of thanks to Rosaleen Kearney and Brian Dooley for sharing this very positive and heart-warming story. Best of luck with your future projects and endeavours in keeping Inniskeen on the map as a tourism hotspot and a really great place to live. Thank you.

Awareness Raising Initiative for Social Enterprises (ARISE) Scheme 2021

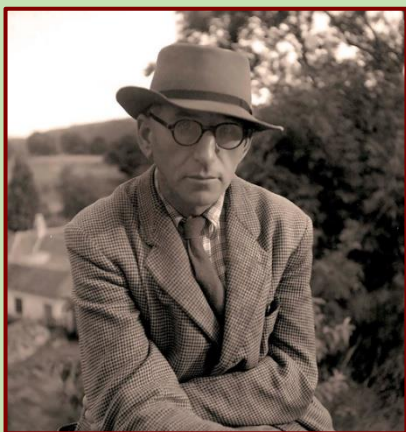
On 15th September 2021, a new funding scheme was announced by Minister Humphrey's from the Department of Rural and Community Development. The €500,000, Awareness Raising Initiative for Social Enterprise (ARISE) Scheme 2021 will provide grants for social enterprises, to promote their role in communities across the country.

Minister Humphrey's stated *"Throughout COVID-19, the value and worth of Social Enterprises within communities has risen considerably. The fund is about helping our Social Enterprises to grow and is a key part of both the Government's National Social Enterprise Policy and the five-year Rural Development Strategy, 'Our Rural Future'"*.

**For further information
on this scheme please
click here.**

ARISE SCHEME

Brian Dooley, (pictured right, 2017), recites Patrick Kavanagh Returns -50 Years On. Reproduced on the right. (Below), Patrick Kavanagh.



Patrick Kavanagh Returns

I dreamt as I lay sleeping at home in my abode
I met with Patrick Kavanagh as he walked the Mucker Road
He told me he had returned, to take a glimpse and see
What Inniskeen looks like now compared to what it used to be.

"Its fifty years since I left," said he. "My time on earth was done
I left it to the younger folk so they may carry on
There's always more poems to compose, some story to display
But the Man above said it's time to go, and I put the pen away."

"If Ever You Go to Dublin Town,' a poem I wrote one time
To see if people remembered me with the passing of some time
I picked a hundred years back then to get a reflective tone
Half of them have gone now, how fast those years have flown"

"The Village is so charming. What changes time has made
My illness took me away back then; I wish I could have stayed
McNellos looks a credit and the 'Pitch and Putt' so fresh
St Daigh's school, Mol an Óige and Inis Óg's new crèche"

"It overwhelms me now to visit the old St Mary's Church
Where I used to attend on Sundays and hang around the porch
How so well I'm remembered with photos, prose, and verse aloud
I didn't always show it, but of Inniskeen I was so proud."

"My resting place and steppingstones are laid for all to see
And pleased I am when people call and spend a while with me
But Catherine, Annie, Mary, and I are resting happily above
To those who work so hard down here, they send their Heavenly
love."

"And not alone in Inniskeen but elsewhere it's plain to see
In Schools, Colleges, Hotels and Bars, they all remember me
In Carrickmacross to where I used walk, in Galway by the sea
A seat by Dublin's Grand Canal, and in Cork down by the Lee."

"Pleased I am that I have been some source of inspiration
To Seamus Heaney, Paul Durcan, and young poets across the
nation
Parson's Bookshop is also closed; they're all here with us now
And of Behan too, well we often laugh at what was then a silly row

"Shortly I will head away to my heavenly home above
Where Angels sing and the place resounds with endless joy and
love
We will be glad to greet you all when your earthly toil is o'er
And when the hundred years are up, I'll take a trip back down once
more."



Upcoming Annual Social Enterprise Conference at Dunhill and more Social Enterprise News

Conference at Dunhill

The Department of Rural & Community Development, (DRCD), is running its annual Social Enterprise Conference from [Dunhill EcoPark](#), (pictured below), on November 18th next. This year it will be a studio type set up with panellists answering questions and various speakers presenting papers. The conference is being *zoomed* countrywide. As of October 14th, the DRCD tell us, they are in the process of finalising the agenda and confirming the speakers. Tickets will be available through **Eventbrite** over the next few weeks. Keep an eye on the **DRCD** website for updates and further information.



Dunhill EcoPark where this year's Annual Social Enterprise Conference will come from on **November 18th Next.**

Social Enterprise Futures, 2021



Social Enterprise Futures will run over four weeks from **November 8th to December 8th** this year. Featuring 12 sessions combining a mix of key-note speakers, practical advice for social enterprises, and peer-to-peer learning and networking. Last year's speakers included former **British Prime Minister, Gordon Brown**, renowned economist **Kate Raworth** and **Paul Polman, the former CEO of Unilever** and **James Timpson**. There were also various representatives from across the social enterprise community. There is a growing consensus that our economic system is failing/unable to deal with the climate emergency or the vast inequalities of health, wealth, and opportunity which the pandemic brought so clearly to light. Big business continues to greenwash. There is the fight against racism. Young people increasingly look to jobs that offer purpose and not just for the pursuit of profit.

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION](#)

Message from SERI Interim CEO, Tammy Darcy.

Over the past 15 months, **SERI** has been focussed on laying the groundwork to establish a strong voice for **Social Enterprise in Ireland**. We have established a strong governance structure overseen by very experienced individuals. We have ensured that **SERI** is "*practitioner-led*" through the establishment of the **Practitioner Council**, which is very engaged in guiding **SERI's** direction, based on shared experiences, challenges and successes.

As many of you know, in addition to my role as interim **CEO** of **SERI**, I also run my own small social enterprise, **Shona: 'The Survival Kit for Girls'**, which offers support to teenage girls all over Ireland. With the reopening of schools, and the anticipated mental and social issues our youth are facing **post-Covid**, my role in **Shona** has become increasingly demanding, and in light of this, I am stepping down as interim **CEO** of **SERI**. Pending the recruitment of a replacement **CEO**, an interim manager will be contracted for the period.

I firmly believe in the work of **SERI** and will continue to be an active part of the team,



Kilmovee Community Centre

working on specific projects where I feel I can add value and expertise. I will also be joining the **Practitioner Council**.

The founding **Directors of SERI** have a wealth of experience and are deeply committed to the development of the social enterprise sector in **Ireland**. I am entirely grateful for the opportunity to work with, and learn from the team, and look forward to continuing our work, albeit in a different capacity.

I would like to thank you all for your support over the past 15 months. Our members are an inspiring, resilient, and diverse group who are all giving so much to address social and environmental issues which affects us all.

Please forward any comments or queries you have to info@socialenterprise.ie and one of our team will be in touch.

Rural Social Enterprise Event Held at Kilmovee.

A **Rural Social Enterprise Event** was held on **September 30th** last at **Kilmovee Community Housing, CLG**. The theme of the conference was *Social Enterprise Opportunities for Rural Development*. Speakers included **Tomas O’Siochain, (CEO of EDC)**. **Fintan O’Brien from DRCD**. There was also a presentation by the *Kilmovee Community Housing Group*.

There was a panel discussion on the challenges facing rural social enterprises which comprised **Senan Cooke**, from *Dunhill EcoPark*, **Ciaran Mulooly**, *Lough Ree Access for All* and **Janet O’Toole**, *Connemara West, PLC*. Other panel discussions focussed on what role the state can play to support social enterprises in rural locations and how can social enterprises in rural locations help each other.



An Cosan are delighted with the announcement of the **Marian Finucane Bursary Fund**. This will support women to access education. Marian was a trailblazer and champion for women, and this will empower our learners to follow her inspiration. Click the link to learn more and support the fund.

MARIAN FINUCANE BURSARY FUND

Click here to discover more about what An Cosan does and follow the path with them to a brighter future.

AN COSAN ADULT EDUCATION

Many thanks to all our contributors, readers, and supporters. If you have any comments on anything we have published or indeed want to make any enquiries at all, please feel free to contact Malcolm at theccjoffice@gmail.com OR 089 252 9885
Remember to visit us at the links below.

