

# CCJ ONLINE MAGAZINE



**If You Aren't Building a Social Enterprise, I Don't Know What Your Business Model Will Be In 5 Years.**



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The Change Makers-Page 16**



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Photo: Winter Gulls at Tramore  
By Aine McCarthy-Kent

If you have any comments on any article in this issue of our magazine, we would love to hear from you. Please feel free to get in touch with Malcolm at [theccioffice@gmail.com](mailto:theccioffice@gmail.com) or on 0892529885. Also please visit us below.





## Editorial

By Dr. Senan Cooke



Interest in social enterprise as a driver of socioeconomic welfare in communities and regions is increasing as communities become more self-reliant and deal with needs and problems at source.

What is urgently required is a National Social Enterprise

Register which will ensure social enterprises are properly recognised and supported with the resources they need. There are so many valuable resources available that are not being used currently. That is a crying shame when the need for them is so great. Many of these resources are losing value with land, lying unused, representing a missed opportunity.

There is a need for a step change in 2022 in providing social enterprises with the tools they need. So much more can be done by social enterprise in enterprise, health, recreation, environment, social inclusion, education, and other areas in particular in alleviating all forms of disadvantage.

It is time for monthly social enterprise site visits to be organised for all stakeholders to attend and learn at first-hand what was done, why, by whom, how, what barriers and obstacles currently exist and what is needed to overcome them. In planning future supports/ programmes it is time for all stakeholders to engage on site where the evidence exists and then retreat to their offices and design the new support programmes. Under new programmes all the resources available can be mobilised and used to best effect. The outcomes should then be measured each year and a national programme of continuous improvement be launched from 2022-2030.

Wishing all our readers a peaceful **Christmas** and a prosperous new year **free from Covid**.

*There is need for a step change in 2020 in providing Social Enterprises with the tools they need.*

## A Taste of the Dunhill EcoPark

When it comes to celebrating Christmas, we all want this one to be special. We are starting to emerge from the dark days of the worst health crisis, some say, since the **Spanish Flu** of **100** years ago. **Dunhill EcoPark** continues its reputation for being ahead of the curve with a special treat for all who believe celebrations should start at home. This year the EcoPark is leading the way when it comes to supporting local, and award-winning, products. **Dunhill** is more than just a collection of social enterprises and small businesses; it is a *Centre of Excellence* in the field. This year, to celebrate the quality of all things local, they are offering *A Taste of the Dunhill EcoPark* Hamper selection. The Eco-friendly gift boxes, seen below, can be purchased from the **Park Cafe** in the centre and also by calling the centre on **051 396934**. You can also order by sending a message on their **Facebook** page, just click the link here.

facebook

Tel: 051 396934

The hampers cost €50 and contain products from

- Barefoot Farm Sweet Chili Dressing
- Barefoot Farm Mustard Dressing
- Frothing Ferments Sriracha Sauce
- Frothing Ferments Red Onion Marmalade
- Frothing Ferments Cheese Board Chutney
- Trish's Honey Products Candle and Lip balm
- A sample box of Chocolates from Marco Cocoa

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## Kilmovee

### A Community in Action



**Kilmovee Community Housing Ltd** has been in operation since **1993**, providing amenities to the community and to certain disadvantaged groups who live within it. Taking a holistic and innovative approach to local community development, **Kilmovee** operates as a voluntary approved housing body and runs a community centre, heritage centre, a Broadband Connection Hub, a recycling centre, laundry service, meals-on-wheels, a community tunnel, and AstroTurf amongst others. The **8** houses in **St Michael's estate** of which **6** are for older people and **2** are family houses are owned and managed by **KCH**. The income from the rent of the houses is used to make improvements to the houses and surrounds and surplus is used to fund new developments and grant aid. In addition to the rent from the social houses, **KCH** also rents space in the **Community Centre** to small enterprises and the **HSE** and this rental income enables **KCH** to expand its services and take advantage of grant aid and has been particularly important during **Covid** when income from hall hire and activities decreased so dramatically.

#### Community Service Programme

**KCH** is run by a voluntary board of directors and receives funding from the **Community Services Program** through **Pobal** which supports **1 manager** and **3 FTE** roles at **Kilmovee**. These manage the operation and maintenance of the community facilities and the delivery of activities including outreach services for the elderly, meals-on-wheels, the heritage centre, and other services. There are also **6 scheme staff** working part-time in the social enterprises. It is

planned to increase our **CSP** staff by **2** in **2022** and we are researching into the expansion of our meals on wheels service to cook the meals in-house and increase the delivery area to a **20km radius** of the centre as there are currently no businesses servicing these areas and there is a huge need to provide hot meals to the elderly and people living alone.

**Kilmovee** has the reputation of looking after people and providing the extra personal supports to people in need. Employees don't see the work as a chore but are invested in helping people and making a difference in people's lives.

*"I love my little house; it feels like home since I moved in. I feel safe and secure and know there is always help available".*

-Winnie: a resident who moved into St Michael's Estate in 2019 when her home became unsuitable for her needs-

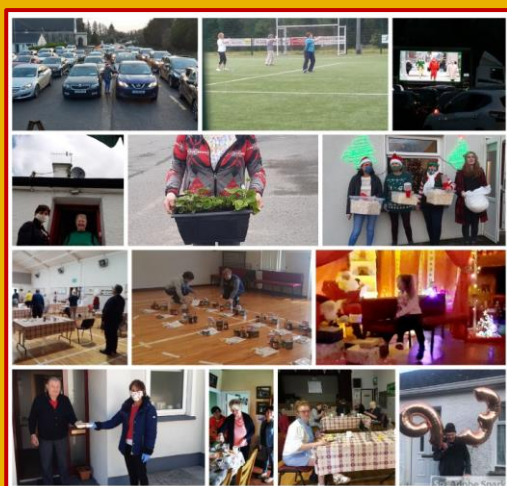
#### Working Through Covid.

**Kilmovee** met the challenges faced by **COVID-19** with flexibility, adaptation, and innovation and with the needs of the community in mind. Our main aim was to ensure that people weren't left feeling isolated and in keeping the Community connected They worked with the **Family Resource Centre** and the **Gardai** to identify older and vulnerable people in the area and carried out phone and in-person check-in to those cocooning, providing '**care bags**', smart phones, did shopping and any other assistance required. This offered a vital lifeline of support and communication during a time of social isolation for many people. For others in the community, they organized competitions, a '**time-capsule**', photography competitions and they also set up '**Kilmovee in Bloom**' in **June 2020** where people were involved in planting, decorating, and delivering flowers to people cocooning and around the village. An outdoor **drive-in cinema** was organized in **December**, providing entertainment and activity to the community and **Kilmovee** arranged a **Santa** visit for children at **Christmas**. We also cooked dinner and delivered it to **85 older people** to celebrate **St Patrick's Day**.



Although the centre was closed to the public we were working in the background and applied for and received funding to erect a tunnel for growing vegetables and fruit. This funding received through the **RTE does Comic Relief** and the **Community Foundation** allowed us to build a **20 by 40ft tunnel**. We were able to set this up along with some outside space and plant vegetables and fruit and run some courses in conjunction with **Mayo Sligo Leitrim ETB**. It is hoped that we will be able to grow vegetables for our **Meals on Wheels** service and have onsite markets to sell the surplus. We erected an outside pavilion that can be used for classes and events when restrictions don't allow indoor gatherings

Since the centre reopened in **September** of this year, we have been welcoming people back slowly to the facilities while being conscious of covid restrictions and covid regulations and adhering to these to ensure that the users of the facilities feel safe. We felt the most important group of people that needed to meet socially again were the older people, so we have recommenced **Our Thursday Club** where the active retired group come back in pods to meet, have dinner, and take part in activities. We plan to bring our **Toddler group, Foróige** and other groups back early **2022** when restrictions allow. We have been able to run a number of **Adult Education Courses** facilitated by **MSLETB**. Courses included **Dry Stone Wall building, growing vegetables in the Community Tunnel, and Cookery Courses**. Our catering service has also allowed us to have some private family gatherings (**christenings, funerals, parties**) in our **Thatch Cottage**. In **September** we were delighted to have been chosen by the **Department of Rural and Community Development & the Western Development** to host a virtual conference on **Social Enterprises in Rural Ireland**. A sell out concert with **Sean Keane** was held in **November** and another one is planned in **February 2022** with **Eleanor McEvoy**.



## The Future-More to Do.

The organization purchased land in **2019** adjacent to the community centre to enhance their stock of housing to meet increased demand especially for older people who for various reasons are no longer able to live in their homes due to isolation, health reasons, or their houses are unsuitable for their needs. **Covid** has shown us that people want to stay living in their communities and have their own front door with independence but with the knowledge that there is support available on site. The most common option is nursing home care, and this isn't always needed. The supported housing project is currently applying for planning permission, and we are working with **Mayo County Council** to apply for **CAS** funding for the development - **The ten two-bedroom supported houses** will be built around a central courtyard with a **six-bedroom group home** next door and communal facilities available to all. Accommodation will be provided for a **manager/caretaker** to live on site. The development will also include a looped-walk, outdoor exercise equipment and a playground to offer outdoor recreation for young and elderly alike and place for exercise for the whole community.

*"The team at Kilmovee Community Centre are just marvellous and really I cannot praise them enough for the efforts they have put in to reaching out to people in the past year. For people living alone, they have made a very difficult year significantly easier by providing a wonderful warm service to us".*

-Dolores: Who had Outreach Services during Covid-

Works are currently being finished in the **Broadband Hub**, from **January 2022** the hub will enable people to work at the **4 hot desks** or the **3 private office pods**. Facilities include an electric car charger, an electric stairlift for accessibility, a Boardroom facility to facilitate meetings, catering facilities and space for large events all with **115 GB broadband speed**. We

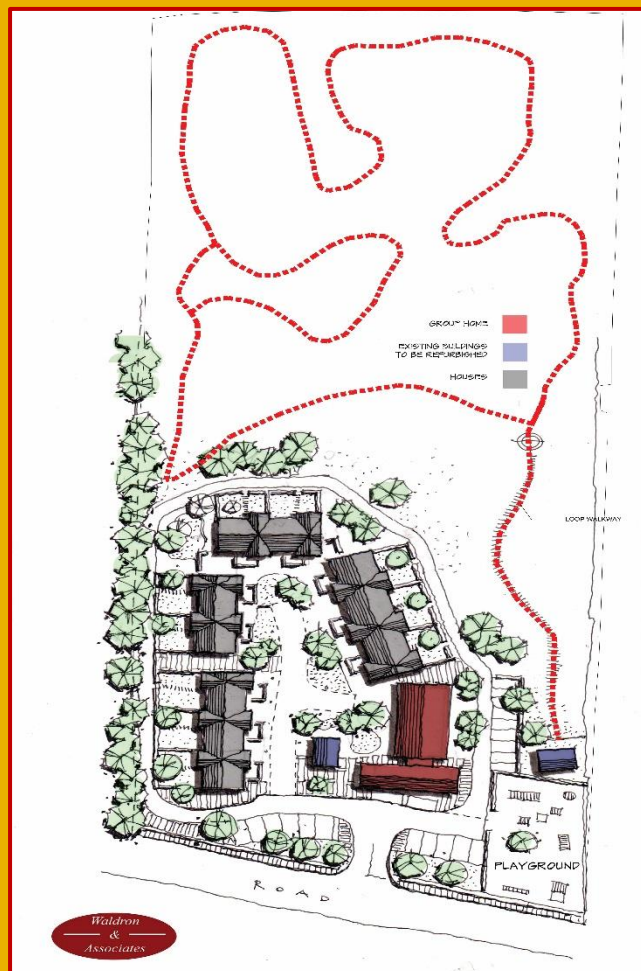
are connected to the *Connected Hubs Network* and spaces can be booked through their online booking system

Works are also ongoing on the heritage archaeological trail that we are developing with **Mayo County Council**. This **6KM walk** has a number of important archaeological monuments with the *Cashel Stone Fort* being the jewel of the trail. It is hoped that this will fully open for tours in the **Summer of 2022**.

With all of the above and the development of the new supported housing development **Kilmovee Community Housing** has a busy future ahead and will continue to be the hub of the community and our little corner in rural **East Mayo**.



**Kilmovee Stone Fort, Cashel**



**Kilmovee Site Map**

## **Contact Kilmovee Community Housing**

E-mail: [admin@communitycentre@kilmovee.info](mailto:admin@communitycentre@kilmovee.info)

**Phone: 094 964 9484**

[Kilmovee Community Centre](#)



### **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, and 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 the past two years. Last year he assumed responsibility for the design/ 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 studying for a Level 7 Certificate in Social Enterprise through WIT.

## 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.**



For social enterprise volunteer directors, volunteers & staff, support agency staff, private sector, colleges & civic society to know and understand.

## The Social Enterprise Spectrum

Charities &  
Voluntary  
Organisations

Charities  
with a  
Trading  
Arm

**Social  
Enterprise**

Commercial  
Businesses  
Having a  
Social  
Imperative

Private  
Sector



## Lough Ree: 10 Questions with the People Behind Award-Winning Lough Ree Access for All

With Ciaran Mullooly



**Ciaran Mullooly** is a company secretary with the social enterprise **Lough Ree Access for All CLG**.

The former **RTE** Journalist has had the tables turned on himself and answered **ten key questions** for us about this ground-breaking new project for people with disabilities which you may have seen on the **RTE Television** advertisement for the **National Lottery** good causes.

### 1. Tell us about the Lough Ree Access for All Project?

[Lough Ree Access For All CLG](#) is a start-up small tourism business based on **Lough Ree** in **Ballyleague-Lanesborough, County Roscommon**. The company is a social enterprise and a registered charity which is serving the disability market with daily boat trips on Lough Ree on board a special innovatively designed vessel - licenced by the **Department of Transport**. The boat can carry up to 12 paying passengers, has been very successful in the last 12 months despite **Covid 19** and I am pleased to say a second vessel is on the way.

### 2. Who are your target market?

People with a physical or intellectual disability, elderly persons or those with mobility difficulties or suffering from dementia. People in residential facilities and their carers are especially welcome but the service is **open to everyone**, and we also welcome students from disadvantaged schools.



### 3. What services do you provide?

Heritage trips, sightseeing trips and angling trips on the **River Shannon** and **Lough Ree**.

### 4. tell us more about the innovatively designed vessel; and what makes it innovative? There is no other vessel of this nature in Britain or Ireland that is licenced by authority to carry up to 10 people with wheelchairs.

Options for wheelchair users to enjoy boating activities are extremely limited. They are excluded because accessibility in design is rarely considered.

Boats are usually designed with able bodied people in mind who can easily climb onto the boat and steady themselves when a boat rocks.

**Wheelchair users** cannot access some vessels without being hoisted or lifted and roll around on unsteady surfaces, meaning that the vessel had to be designed specifically to address these issues.

### 5. How did you go about designing the vessel?

When we started out, one of the challenge was to **learn from international experience** about disability and water transport. There was **no expertise** in that area in **Ireland**.

**The challenge** was to identify a number of similar models internationally where people with disabilities can control the boat as well as travel on it.

The solution was to identify disabled anglers and boat enthusiasts in **Sweden** and the **EU** and bring them on board as part of the feasibility process.

We worked on the design with **Sweden**, then contacted the marine survey office of the **Department of Transport** in **Dublin** to engage in comprehensive discussion and consultation on the design of the boat, taking on board the experience of people with disabilities and the obvious concerns of the statutory authority.

**A huge challenge** was to come up with a design that met the requirements. At the end of the process, we settled on a **'roll-on, roll-off'** design –similar to a small car ferry so that wheelchair users could access the vessel on their own.



## 6. How were opportunities sourced, identified, approached, and implemented?

We love **EU Leader fund**! The opportunity was sourced with **Leader 2**. We identified opportunities under the theme of *Disability and Rural Tourism*.

We met with **Denise** from [Roscommon Integrated Development Company](#) at local level after seeing a call for funding presentation. We also began our consultation informally with disability groups from all over the country including the [Irish Wheelchair Association](#). We were partially funded by the **National Lottery**. Take a look at our [National Lottery advert](#).



## 7. Can you tell us how you were able to be so resourceful with minimum resources?

We continued to organise fishing competitions for **Irish** anglers and **international** anglers. We charged an entrance fee and raised a couple of thousand euro for the project.

Then we did fund-raising activities by shaving and dying our hair!

## 8. How can people learn more about Lough Ree Access for All?

Our website is a good place to start

[www.loughreeboattrips.com](http://www.loughreeboattrips.com).

[We featured on a news segment for RTE](#) and we also did a [video with our local radio station Ros FM 94.6](#)



## 9. What are your social media channels?

I have listed them all in a box below. Just click the links and they will bring you directly to us.

**Come and give us a like, subscribe and follow!**

## 10. What's up next, where is your next challenge?

We hope to launch our 2<sup>nd</sup> boat in 2022 – and increase the capacity of the service for people with disabilities but Covid 19 is making us work even harder than ever – so lots of work to be done.



**Lough Ree Access for All Media Links  
Just Click the Links for Access**

**facebook**

**You Tube**



**Instagram**



[Lough Ree Boat Trips for All](#)

Tel: 089 262 5505

## Support Network for Social Entrepreneurs, (SuNSE), Project

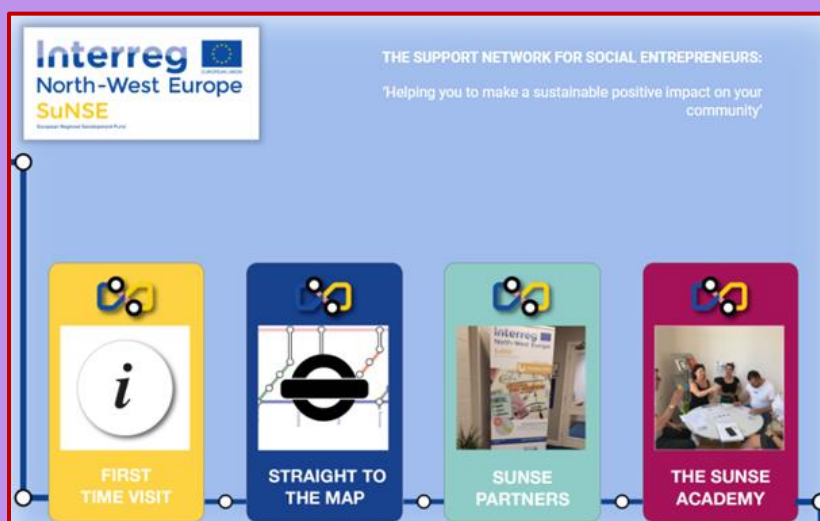


The **Southeast BIC**, are partners in the **Interreg North West Europe, SuNSE project**. We are supporting social entrepreneurs across southern regions of Ireland, to start and grow

social businesses (*those which deliver social as well as economic benefits*).

The project aims to reduce out-migration of ambitious individuals, by offering **group or 1-1 supportive learning** (*in areas such as business planning, financial management, market awareness and commercialising opportunities*), that will allow social entrepreneurs to establish locally based social businesses. This will not only create career opportunities for the participating individuals but will regenerate communities experiencing market failures through job creation and delivery of products/services vital to community resilience. **South East BIC, SuNSE** will continue to provide social enterprise development supports until **31<sup>st</sup> March 2022**.

disadvantaged regions. Partners based in **Ireland, Northern Ireland, Luxembourg, Netherlands, UK, and France** are bringing together expertise, support agencies, local authorities, universities, and enterprise support specialists in a transnational partnership that will address common problems of market failure in economically excluded communities. Through the **SuNSE** partnership, high impact, robust and tested models for social entrepreneurship development are being created. Approaches developed will be utilised long after the end of the programme and the network of social entrepreneurs and hubs will continue as a transnational collaboration and platform for knowledge exchange, well into the future.



### Transnational Hubs Launch, December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021

**SuNSE** launched its network of social entrepreneurship hubs across **North West Europe**, to act as local points for stimulating community driven economic activity in

**Great Opportunity to Start or Grow your Social Enterprise. For More Information Just Click the Links Below**



**facebook**



**in**

**For More Information, Please Contact  
Carole Thurston, and Michelle  
O'Rourke at  
sunse@southeastbic.ie**



## Dunhill EcoPark Hosts 2021 National Social Enterprise Conference

By Senan Cooke



The **Department of Rural & Community Development, (DRCD)**, organised its online social enterprise conference from **Dunhill Ecopark** on **Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> November**. Over **350 people attended** on- line through zoom technology. The main conference team of speakers were located in **Dunhill**. **Ministers Heather Humphreys, TD, Minister for Social Protection & Rural, Community Development** and **Oisín Smyth Minister for State for Public Procurement** presented papers from **Dublin**.

**Fergus Finlay** chairman of **SERI**, a panellist argued strongly for greater co-operation and co-ordination among the many social enterprise bodies and organisations working in the sector. It is important that current fragmentation within the sector was streamlined. To make the best use of all the resources available all supporting organisations needed to join forces and promote greater awareness and to leverage more relevant on time supports from the state for the sector. There was a need to eliminate waste and duplication.

Department officials expressed satisfaction with location, venue, conference room, digital technology, broadband supply, introductory video on **Dunhill Ecopark**, the artisan food from the **Ecopark** provided for the lunch and even the weather smiled benevolently on the event as it lived up to its name - *the Sunny Southeast!* – even if it was touch and go at times throughout the morning.



**Dunhill Multi – Education Manager Helen Kavanagh** and her team were delighted to act as host.



Preparing the media room for the conference at Dunhill



**Panel Members:** Fergus Finlay, **SERI**, Ivan Cooper, **The Wheel**, Clodagh O'Reilly, **ISEN**, Pauline Gannon, **Social Impact Ireland** and Elaine McGrath, **PAUL Partnership Limerick/ILDN** pictured with MC, Andrew Forde, **DRCD** and Kevin McCarthy, **DRCD**.



Some of the attendees at the conference



## Professor Luke O'Neill: *COVID: What Now?*



Who would have thought we'd be talking about **Year 3** of the **COVID19** pandemic, and yet that is what is coming. The first case was in early **December 2019** and that single case has led to over **250,000,000 cases** and over **5 million deaths**. Those numbers still strike me as staggering.

And yet science has delivered hugely. There is constant anxiety in the media about vaccines failing but they continue to protect against really severe disease and death. It's just that they are waning a bit against moderate disease but there is a solution, and that is to provide boosters which is happening and should be done as soon as possible. Great data from **Israel** tells us that the boosters work really well. It's very early days, but they might also work against the latest variant of **SARS-CoV2, Omicron**. That variant has caused consternation and yet immunologists remain hopeful that the current vaccines, especially if boosted, will offer protection against severe disease.

The other thing science has delivered is **anti-viral drugs** against **COVID19**, most notably **Paxlovid**, which is being made by **Pfizer** for the whole world in **Ringaskiddy**. That was shown to **protect by 89%** from risk of hospitalization. A cause for celebration and indeed recent evidence also suggests it should work against any variant.

Although we need to observe some restrictions in our socializing this **Christmas**, as we wait for people to be given the booster, we can still enjoy the festive season together. You can worry a lot less if your loved one has been boosted and you can still meet them if they are not and just be a little careful. It's still the season to be jolly, and the main reason is what science has brought us.

As ever, it is our scientific ingenuity and care for one another that will mean we will prevail

against **COVID19**. So maybe this **Christmas**, raise a glass to all the scientists who have worked on **COVID19**. You can look forward with hope that **2022** will be the year we will truly see the back of **COVID19**.

**Luke has a PhD in Pharmacology from the University of London and was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 2016. He was given the George Sigerson Award from UCD for Inspiring Aspiring Scientists. He is Professor of Biochemistry and Immunology at Trinity College Dublin.**

**He is the author of several books which make science accessible and fun. They can be bought in most good book shops and on line at:**

### **Books by Luke O'Neill**



***"We were standing on one side of a massive river of uncertainty and hardship.... We're now seeing the other side of the river".***

**-Christine Lagarde, President ECB-**



**Covid vaccine Information from the HSE**  
**Click the Links Below:**

**[How To Get Your Vaccine](#)**  
**[Register Online for Vaccine Appointment](#)**  
**[Before Getting Your Vaccine](#)**  
**[What You Can Do After Vaccination](#)**  
**[Going to your COVID-19 Vaccine Appointment](#)**  
**[Going to a Walk-In Vaccination Centre](#)**  
**[Find a COVID-19 Vaccination Centre](#)**

## Social Enterprise Profile: Social Farming

By Yvonne Kieran Tully



### What is Social Farming?

**Social farming** offers people who are socially, physically, mentally, or intellectually disadvantaged the opportunity to spend time on a family farm

in a healthy, supportive, and inclusive environment. Social Farming is an **all-Ireland and European – wide initiative** which facilitates an opportunity for the vulnerable to get involved in the day-to-day working of a regular farm, allowing them to reap the benefits that come from spending time in nature, doing physical work, interacting with soil, plants, animals whilst also engaging with other people. A person may choose to spend a fixed amount of time on the farm participating in activities they may be interested in such as gardening, animal care or indoor activities such as baking bread or jam making.

Social farming activity takes place in a safe and supportive environment taking into account the individuals' **abilities, desires, and interests**. Focus remains on encouraging participants to socialise, **gain confidence, and build relationships**. Whilst those participating in Social Farming activities may derive therapeutic benefit from it, this is not the main purpose or aim and the farmers are not playing the role of therapists.



Examples of Social Farming in Action

### How it works:

**Social Farming Ireland connects organisations** who work with vulnerable people with farmers, farmers are trained in **Health and**

**Safety and Safeguarding.** The group may come with a leader to begin with and other times the participants may attend themselves. The organisation has a choice to look at the different farmers in the area and can choose who best fits their needs. They can then attend their chosen farm for an introduction visit where the participants and the farmer have the opportunity to determine if it's a **“good fit”** or a **“match”** to fulfil their needs.



**New Opportunities-Connecting People-Enhancing Lives**

One such farmer who has embarked on the journey of **Social Farming** is **Sean Butler**. **Sean** and his wife **Helen** run **Hillside Holistic Farm**, an organic farm and holistic centre located in rural **Co. Roscommon**.

Social Farming has given Sean and Helen the opportunity to share the benefits of farm life with others. They feel, opportunities to work, gain experience or just get a feel for outdoors can have an incredible impact on mental health and wellbeing.

**Projects under Social Farming at Hillside Holistic Farm** are overseen by the **Department of Agriculture**, the duration and frequency of the visits are agreed between the organisation/group and Sean, the farmer. Whilst the scheme offers many benefits to the participants it also offers the farmer the prospect of diversifying the farm.

### Social Farming at Hillside Holistic Farm

**The Butler family** has been farming the **Hillside Farm** for at least **4 generations**. Sean left school in **1976** and started farming then. In **1979**, he completed a one-year course in **Mountbellew Agricultural College**. Once that was done, he started to develop the farm and increase production, reseed grass and increasing cattle and sheep numbers. He always had some conflict within himself about what he was doing with the



land and animals, fertilizers, and medicines, but this is how farmers were encouraged to do things, so he put his concerns aside and carried on. He decided that others seemed to know best and so he didn't question it.

By the **late 1990's**, Sean's concerns about how his farming methods were affecting the land, animals, water, air, biodiversity, environment in general and also the health of people – both then and future generations, eventually got the better of him. He converted to **organic farming in 2001**. This resulted in a reduction in stock numbers by **50%**, no fertilizers or routine medications. Virtually all of the things he had been vaccinating and treating with routine medications disappeared. He put this down to the fact that the lower numbers of animals reduced their levels of stress, and this gave a stronger immune system. Sean also noticed his own **stress levels decreased** too.

***"I belong to the land. It is not my role to make the land do what I think it should be doing. Instead, I work out what the land wants me to do, and I do that".***

**Farming organically** is much different from conventional farming. It involves planning and thinking farther ahead. The land and animals have to be managed to prevent problems from occurring by using proper grazing rotations etc, whereas conventionally you just keep pushing ahead and use medications and fertilizers to try to solve the problems that arise. **Seeing the impact of this** on the animals is what started Sean thinking about health in general. His farming philosophy is ***"I belong to the land. It's not my role to make the land do what I think it should be doing. Instead, I work out what the land wants me to do, and I do that."***

It was with this in mind that Sean decided to go into **Social Farming**. Sean contacted **Social Farming Ireland**, he was put in touch with the **Regional Adviser** who met with Sean and discussed his ideas. There was **training involved** and luckily for Sean at the time training was **locally facilitated in Ballinasloe**. Sean remembers others having to travel from places as far away as **Kildare** to this training. Whilst it is not difficult to get into **Social Farming**, and



Sean Butler with his wife Helen at Hillside Holistic Farm

there was not a lot of costs encountered by him in setting up **Social Farming** on his farm other than, as he said, ***"a few more forks and a wheelbarrow"***, time was spent on training days and on administration. There's ***"some additional paperwork on top of the normal paperwork for farming"*** recalls Sean.

Sean feels the **benefits outweigh the costs**, he feels that it ***"forces you to slow down a bit, makes you plan ahead more and promotes improved Health and Safety on the farm"***. The **Health and Safety Audit** was an opportunity for him to actually draw up his **Safety Statement** and to critically analysis the risks on the farm with the assistance of a **Farm Safety Inspector**.

Sean felt that the supports offered by **Social Farming Ireland** proved very beneficial to him. I asked Sean if he was part of a **Social Farmers Network or Forum?** to which he replied, ***"Would you believe I have only met other farmers during my training, but tomorrow evening Deirdre Fahy, who works for Social Farming Ireland has organised a Regional Social Farmers Virtual Meeting"***. He believed these would have been up and running sooner in person had it not been for **Covid 19**. Sean was looking forward to meeting other **Social Farmers** and hearing their stories.

I went on to ask Sean **what he has learned most from opening up his Social Farming Enterprise**, Sean took his time and gathered his thoughts, he was very honest and philosophical in his answer. ***"I have learned to appreciate what I have, my good health and my abilities and capabilities, and that life can be so much more difficult for others who are not as lucky as I am"***, Sean went on to say ***"it has opened my***



*eyes to the valuable work that is being done by organisations out there, the people and organisations out there that need help and that there are still some falling through the cracks”.*



The participants are the most important part of Social Farming Projects

The biggest reward for me was hearing from the service organisations, the difference a visit to his farm was making to their participants, who come from sheltered accommodation or independent living houses with their coat, wellies, and lunch pack. Their ability to come prepared, to understand what they needed to wear and bring certain things on those days. It displayed a level of interest and intellect that we ourselves take for granted on a daily basis. *“That is something I found rewarding; knowing that the farm was making a difference and enriching lives,”* said Sean. It brought me back to the lyrics of a song by Christy Moore, *“Don’t forget your shovel if you want to go to work”.*

Sean went on to point out that this project would be **very valuable** for all people regardless of their intellectual abilities, *“I think it would be very beneficial for young people to get involved in Social Farming as well as offering it to groups of different ages”.* Sean feels that people are all now been grouped together by their age, he feels a group of **young and old together** would prove a more positive way of sharing knowledge and experiences while making new social connections and exposing new learning opportunities on the farm.

I was curious to find out just how does one make an **income from Social Farming**. Sean was well able to enlighten me on this. Currently those involved in aiding and assisting in setting up **Social Farms** receives a payment from the

Department of Agriculture, this funding, however, is only temporary. **The Service Providers pay a fee** for the service on the farm, which really is a **token** for the farmers time spent preparing tasks for and working with the participants on their projects. Sean has recently run **Social Farming projects** for the **HSE** and **Brothers of Charity**. However, like most other **Social Enterprises**, funding is an important factor in the enterprise’s longevity.

**Anne Rabbit, Minister of State for Disability** recently visited Sean at **Hillside Holistic Farm**. The purpose of this visit was to allow the **Minister** to see **Social Farming in action** on a rural family farm. To see first-hand, what is happening at grass roots, the benefits it has to offer individuals who may be socially, physically, mentally, or intellectually disadvantaged in a bid to secure the longevity of the funding. Thus, **enabling Social Farmers to plan** for the future knowing that their funding is secure for years to come, knowing that they can have a sustainable enterprise which can create new opportunities, enhance lives, and connect people.



Anne Rabbit visiting Hillside Holistic Farm in November 2021

I would like to wish Sean continued success with **Hillside Holistic Farm**, he is providing a fantastic service and making a difference in people’s lives. I would also like to say *“Thanks”* for taking time out to have a virtual chat with me, I really enjoyed finding out about **Social Farming** and the benefits it has to offer.

**Click The Links Below for More Information:**

[Social Farming Ireland](#)  
[Hillside Holistic Farm](#)

**Hillside Holistic Farm, Tavanagh, Athlone, Co.**

**Roscommon. N37 Y324**

**Tel: +353 86 6021962**

**info@hillsideholisticfarm.ie**

**Community Finance Ireland:  
Saying Goodbye to 2021  
& Thank You to the Change Makers who  
Secured £5.3m (€6.2m) this Year**



This time last year we all had hopes that the **Pandemic** would be done and dusted. We are all aware this didn't happen and, as we close off another year we will continue to live with its affects for a while yet.

Whilst we acknowledge **Covid** continued to affect us during the past **12 months**, we can confidently say that **we supported both our clients and key stakeholders** to achieve progress and ensured that, whilst we were often asked to stay apart, we came together in ways that helped our clients deliver health, happiness, and hope.

- We took the opportunity to grow our local footprint and welcomed new team members **Emmett, Anne, Pauline, Nora, Nick, Stephanie, and Jack.**
- In **Belfast** our new head office was finally able to open its doors and support our new norm that is a hybrid working model.
- We helped deploy **£7.1m to 354 charities** on behalf of **Department for Communities** via the **Covid- 19 Charities Grant Fund.**
- We collaborated with **Conor McGale at Rural Community Network** and **Larry O'Neill CEO Dublin South Co Partnership** on the launch of our [All Island Recovery Loan](#)
- We collaborated with **Joanne O' Riordan of The Irish Times, Brendan Boyce Olympian Athlete** and **Patsy McGonigle of Finn Valley AC** on the [launch of our All Island Sports Fund.](#)
- We continued to work with key stakeholders such as **Invest NI, Enterprise NI** and



Sports Campaign Launch: Anne Graham, Michael McGarrigle, Brendan Boyle, and Patsy McGonigle in Donegal.

**Department for Communities** in **Northern Ireland**, as well as **Social Finance Foundation, Rethink Ireland** and **DCU** in the **Republic.**

- We listened to and worked with **91 enquiries.**
- We welcomed an additional **62% increase** in followers across our social media channels
- **All are indications** that the sector continues to seek support, insights, and social finance.



Phelim Sharvin and Emmett O'Hara for AIRL Campaign Border View.



**Donal Traynor,  
Group Chief  
Executive, said:**

*"Whilst the **Pandemic** continues to challenge all communities, we have seen greater solidarity across the whole island of **Ireland**. Clients are responding with innovative fundraising initiatives as-well as migrating to an online service (**an investment we ourselves undertook in 2020**) to help make the provision of services easier and sustainable.*

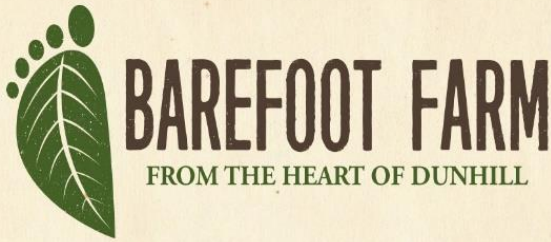
*The sector itself is not immune to trends. We expect to see hybrid events and campaigns plus sustainable, remote working facilities, as well as questions around how we play our part in supporting climate change targets.*

*All of the above offer the opportunity for us to continue to work with clients who want to ensure social impact is felt not just dreamt – **we are here listening all the time** and committed to finding solutions that support that ethos".*

**Community Finance Ireland**  
**Invest NI**  
**Enterprise NI**  
**Dept. for Communities NI**  
**Social Finance Foundation**  
**Rethink Ireland**



**Barefoot Farm:**  
***The Story of an Award-Winning Family Business***



**Paul** started out as a second-generation glass blower at **Waterford Crystal**, then moved on to security and fire at **Waterford Airport**. While working, he spent a few years growing organically at home as a hobby and then decided to get into it a bit more seriously. That was when he signed up for an online organic horticulture course, of which he completed with distinction. Following a four-month work placement with organic mixed salad growers **Rory & Sheila Magorrian of Kildinan Farm, Cork**, Paul, and his partner **Fiona** decided that they would like to turn their hand at starting their own mixed salad farm, here in **Waterford**.

**Barefoot Farm** was then established on an acre of land at the **Ecopark, Dunhill**. Initially working with only a couple of poly-tunnels which we have needed to expand to keep up with local demand,



thankfully! At times the work on the farm has been back breaking, exhausting and is **7 days per week**, luckily, they love what they do! **Barefoot Farm** is absolutely **a family affair**, and they couldn't do it without the help they have received. Fiona organises the day-to-day administration and social media, alongside propagation, watering, packing, etc. While Paul's mother **Marie** helps



with labelling and organising of the packaging. His daughter **Sophie** assists with sowing seeds and market promotion days. Then there are the rest of the huge **Ryan clan** (*too many to mention!*) who have all assisted hugely with erecting the poly-tunnels and helped, ad hoc,



when needed. The polytunnels were all bought from **Mount Congreve** and upcycled at **Dunhill**, they loved this idea as it is in keeping with the **Ecopark** ethos while having a piece of history too. Paul's typical day begins with an early start, opening tunnels to generate the airflow, checking on the plants, which Fiona, says "*are his babies*". Then, depending on the day he can either be harvesting to order or delivering during the morning/mid-day to retail outlets and cafés and restaurants. His afternoons usually consist of turning over beds to prepare them for the new plants or hoeing, watering, sowing seeds, or general housekeeping. At the end of the day, he will lock up tunnels after checking on the plants, again. There is always a long list of jobs to be done. **Always!**

**Current products are: Mixed salad leaves,** there are between **6 – 8 different types** of salad



leaves in each retail bag. There could be **mustards**, various types of lettuce leaves, a variety of other leaves depending on the season, and you will never get the same bag twice!

**Rocket** will usually consist of both wild rocket and salad rocket. This ensures a lovely peppery kick. **Spinach** is extremely popular also, and they have had nice feedback on how lovely and fresh it is in both salad and cooking. **Kale**, they are growing for the first time this year, and all is going well so far! All the products they grow are **chemical & pesticide free**, they use **green manures** for weed suppression and to encourage fertility of the soil and although they aren't fully **practicing biodynamics**, they use their lunar calendar for seed sowing and planting. Quality is



paramount to them at **Barefoot Farm**, full stop! You would not believe the number of leaves that are composted

during the harvesting and packing process. They are very, very fussy! It is important to note that they do not yet have their '**organic**' certification but all they do is based around organic principles and standards and they are proud to stand by that. Their packaging is **biodegradable**, and all their products are hand-picked to order to guarantee freshness, quality and above all beautiful taste.

During the summer months they decided to give a bit back to the Ecopark and created a gravel courtyard area with **six large raised beds containing bee friendly cosmos flowers** – they couldn't believe how huge they grew, they really were a hit with everyone especially the bees. They also planted up any other bare areas with **bee friendly plants, shrubs, flowers and wild flower mixes**. Even Fiona's father's old wheelbarrow was upcycled by being sprayed a bright pink colour and given the floral treatment. Most recently they received one of the **Chef's choice** awards for their mixed salad leaves at **Blas**

**na hEireann Irish Food Awards** in the ***Chef's Larder*** category. They are both delighted with this accolade as it makes the hard work worthwhile.



**Products available at: Ardkeen Quality Food Store, Londis Cleaboy, Cove Stores, Tramore Saturday Market.**

## Tammy Darcy: The Shona Project, Two Red Cross Humanitarian Awards

On Sunday, November 29th, Tammy Darcy -



Tammy with her award

**Founder and CEO** of *The Shona Project* and members of her team attended a small gathering of the 4th annual *Irish Red Cross Humanitarian*

*Awards*. *The Shona Project*, a not-for-profit organisation who aims to educate and inspire **Irish** girls to become the resilient women of the country's future, was nominated for three awards. The nominations included *Innovation for Change Award*, *Digital Influence Award*, and the prestigious *Humanitarian of the Year Award* - Tammy Darcy and her team took home *The Humanitarian of the Year Award* and *The Innovation for Change Award*.

### Humanitarian Award

*The Humanitarian of the Year Award* is the highest honour bestowed by the *Irish Red Cross* on an individual for exceptional humanitarian achievement. The individual will not only have demonstrated extraordinary leadership but will have made a positive difference in the lives of others. This individual will also have inspired others to make societal changes a reality. It is only fitting that **Tammy Darcy** was the **2021 winner** of this award. Nominated for her tireless effort to create a positive impact on the lives of the young girls of **Ireland** through her not-for-profit organisation, *The Shona Project*, Tammy has turned the significant trauma she experienced as a teen into a story she shares beautifully through her book and *The Shona Project* workshops and engaged online community.

### Innovation for Change Award

Change and innovation is the only constant in society. This is now truer than in the field of humanitarian endeavour. The *Innovation for Change Award* recognises the achievements of an individual or team who have had a humanitarian

impact on society through innovation. The winner of this award will have recognised a humanitarian issue, implemented a solution, and have consequently made a positive impact on society.

*The Shona Project team* was humbled to have their hard work recognised by receiving this award for **2021** and equally as delighted to keep the award in **Waterford**, having been awarded to **Cian Ó Maidín of NearForm** in **2020** for his work on the **Covid-19 Tracker App**. Launched in **September 2016**, now more than ever, the young girls of **Ireland** need *The Shona Project* and its support. The **COVID-19** pandemic has had a crippling impact on the self-esteem and mental health of **Ireland's** young people. This fact can be seen in the shocking statistic that **Ireland** has the *highest rate of suicide among teenage girls* in **Europe**. *The Shona Project* recognised the shift of teenagers' socialisation from in-school and in-person to online. Through innovation and the ability to change with the times, *The Shona Project* has grown its online community to an engaged army of girls and women from all over the world and saw its biggest ever event to date with its online **SHINE Festival** in **March 2021** which was attended by **40,000** teenagers.



Tammy Darcy & Ellen Conway



**Speaking to Frank Phelan from The Irish Red Cross, he said:**

*"We are absolutely delighted that Tammy and The Shona Project have won The Humanitarian of the Year Award and The Innovation for Change Award. Tammy and The Shona Project do amazing work empowering young women all across Ireland by giving them the tools and a voice to go out and achieve their goals."*

**Speaking about the awards, Tammy Darcy said:**

*"This is a huge honour, especially coming from the Red Cross, an organisation we admire so much. I started the Shona Project as a tribute to my sister, and it has been a joy to have started a movement which is now not just about Shona and myself, but is about every teenage girl, in every corner of Ireland. We are so proud of all that we've achieved, and are more committed than ever to getting louder, bigger and stronger in the years to come".*

**About The Shona Project.**

**The Shona Project** is a movement that tackles difficulties facing girls aged **11 and upwards** living in **Ireland** in the era of **social media – bullying, low self-esteem, body issues, anxiety, and depression**. Launched in **September 2016** by **Waterford** woman **Tammy Darcy**, **The Shona Project CLG** aims to educate, empower, and inspire **today's Irish girls** to become tomorrow's resilient, capable, and confident young women.

Since its inception, **The Shona Project** has developed:

- **The Survival Handbook for Young Girls** - <https://shona.ie/handbook/> - (30K copies sold out in 3 days in 2019)
- **Shine Festival** (2018: 350 attendees, 2019: 1,000 attendees, 2021: 40,000 online attendees, 1 million video loads, the potential online reach of 9.1 million)
- **A vibrant, empowering and engaged** online community with a combined reach of 300,000 per month.

- **In-school workshops** at second level, a pilot at primary on hold due to **COVID-19** and an intense **1-week Summer Programme**.

This is an exciting time for **The Shona Project**. It is growing from strength to strength and is looking forward to what **2022** has in store.

**For More Information:**

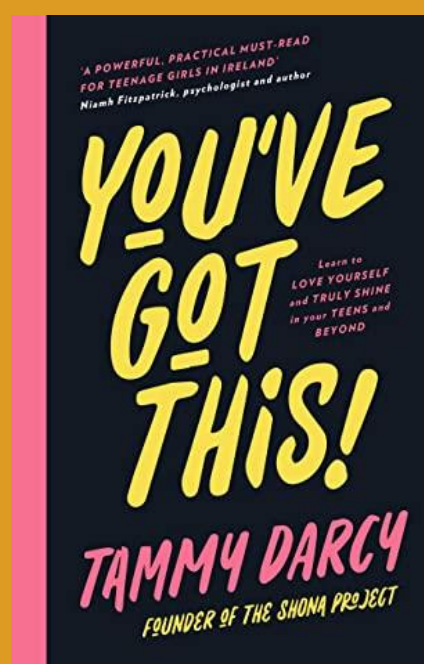
Please Contact Ellen Conway  
[ellen@shona.ie](mailto:ellen@shona.ie) or 087 624 7002

**Or Just Click the Links Below**



**facebook**

[Read more about Tammy and her work at The Shona Project.](#)



**Learn to Love yourself and truly shine in your teens and beyond.**

[Available HERE](#)

## Ensuring Travellers are Included In a Just Ireland

By Bernard Joyce, Director of ITM



When the Irish Traveller Movement was established in 1990, the climate was very different with wide spread institutionalised racism and discrimination

that continues right up until today, the state response at this time was one of forced institutionalised assimilation, through government policy and practice. The Government's 1963 Itinerancy report explicitly noted, *"it sought to bring a final solution to the itinerant problem in Ireland"*, where Traveller culture and nomadic way of life was now a matter of concern that needed to be resolved by the state.

The Irish Traveller Movement was formed from a grass roots led movement where our rights as a community needed to be upheld and safeguarded on this island, such as to have a place to live, be safe, a place to work, and to live without fear of **persecution, discrimination, and unfair treatment**. It was common place, and well documented, how **Travellers** faced intimidation, and even violence during this time.

Throughout those years strong **Traveller leaders** emerged who would no longer accept the State's historic and damning attempts to *"settle and reform"*, and brought forward a platform to advocate, and challenge the state under each successive Government.

The **1995 Report** of the *Task Force on the Travelling Community* was the first positively framed *State policy for Travellers*, a hopeful new chapter and stated, *"The recognition of Travellers' culture and identity has an importance for Travellers and our status in Irish society."* Despite that intention, it took another **22 years for recognition** to come from the State, the culmination of a three decade long local and **national Traveller campaign**.

The first *Oireachtas Committee on Traveller issues* launched their **final report** in **December 2021**, following testimonials of the stark reality for the community. The committee members restated the **urgent need for delivery of Traveller accommodation** as a matter of significant importance alongside addressing the



poor education outcomes for **Traveller children** including the improper use of a reduced timetable, and the severity of **Traveller mental health** and employment

Today **Travellers** live across different types of accommodation, some provided with the assistance of the state, some in private ownership, **approximately 9,000 people are living in inadequate, unsafe and accommodation**, waiting for improvement in or provision of a home by a local authority, who are mandated under their *Traveller Accommodation Programmes*, **TAPs**, through legislation.

Poor accommodation has had a detrimental effect on **Traveller** mental and physical health, employability, the capacity to avail of educational opportunities, and many **Travellers** ability to play a full and equal role in society and is one of **the biggest barriers** to better outcomes and improvements in our and our children's lives.



Traveller Family photographed in 1890: Change has come all too slowly, and poor accommodation has a detrimental effect, mentally and physically, on Travellers with children bearing the brunt of it.





Photograph from **Traveller Heritage Ireland**; links at bottom of article.

As a community we are more vulnerable to climate impacts and **a global pandemic**. Many are living-in **poor-quality accommodation** with **short deterioration rates** due to **overcrowding**, or **on roadsides, flood plains**, adjacent to **motorways** and reliant on **fossil fuel energy**. As we move into a winter of increased energy costs the gap between **Travellers** and wider community has significantly increased with deplorable conditions in much **Traveller Accommodation**, and a **lack of delivery** by local authorities. Up to **3,000 children** are living in **unsafe conditions**, due to council's continued failure to deliver. In **2020** only **7 new homes** were built for **Travellers** despite **2,871 families** currently in need and so far in **2021** just **2.4 million euro** has been drawn down by **Councils** of the **15.5 million** available, a repeated pattern of their low ambition continues.

**The impact of Fuel Poverty**, especially where Travellers live in trailers and mobiles, has not been measured or taken account of in policy decisions. And it is clear the environment and energy dimension of **Traveller's living conditions** has not been prioritised in **Government thinking** and there has been **no consultation** with us on climate matters where we are more vulnerable given the added systemic structural discrimination we face, particularly in our right to a home.

We depend on the Government commitments of today in the areas of education, non-discrimination, health, and employment. However, there is neglect of the monitoring of national policy implementation and the resources needed to see those improvements happen.

**Government** needs to **prioritise Travellers** and commit further investment in a more targeted way to **redress drastic and intergenerational**

**inequities**, such as our **life expectancy** which is **15 years less for men and 11 years less for women** compared to the general population, and where **73%** of the population is under **35yrs**. **Traveller Suicide is six times the national average accounting for 11% of all deaths**. There are massive and disproportionate education outcomes for Travellers and use of a reduced timetable is widespread and reflects a system which places a low expectation on Travellers as learners. ***The level of widespread discrimination against Travellers in all parts of Irish society is the second-highest rate of reported discrimination within EU countries.***

**A Just Ireland for Travellers** would be one where, we are visible and respected in every setting and participating at an equal level, **without barriers** to education, employment, and accommodation and where **Traveller health** is being properly managed with services meeting community needs and prioritised to **redress suicide and mental health**.

It would also need **Government policy** delivering for the community and defeating intergenerational disadvantage, and not subject to political whim.

And where **racism and discrimination** faced by us is being addressed and our cultural identity and heritage is recognised and promoted. That we are factored into **Ireland's** broader cultural, social, community and environmental strategies, as a matter of **fact, rather than afterthought**. That our involvement in decision-making processes is happening and visible and within the mainstream political system.

**A Just Ireland for Travellers** needs a restated **Government effort with ambition to make real improvements for our community throughout every county in Ireland**.

**For more information, please click the links below.**

[\*\*Irish Traveller Movement, \(ITM\).\*\*](#)

[\*\*1995 Task Force Report\*\*](#)

[\*\*Oireachtas Committee on Traveller Issues\*\*](#)

[\*\*Seanad Public Consultation Committee Report on Travellers; Towards a More Equitable Ireland Post-Recognition-Jan 2020\*\*](#)

**Historian Julian Walton:**  
**Recipient of the 2021**  
**Wallace Clare Award**

The **Council of the Irish Genealogical Research Society** is pleased to announce that the **2021** recipient of the *Wallace Clare Award* is **Julian C. Walton, MA, FIGRS**. Julian has made a truly remarkable contribution to the study of **Irish** genealogy over five decades. Through his meticulous research and scholarly articles, his transcription of memorial inscriptions and his engaging communication of genealogical and local history topics, he has contributed greatly to the furtherance of ancestral research in Ireland.



**Julian Walton** is widely regarded as one of the most knowledgeable genealogists in **Ireland**, particularly in relation to the more esoteric early modern sources. *The*

*[Irish Genealogical Research Society \(IGRS\)](#)* has been fortunate to have him as a member for over half a century. From the beginning he was a willing volunteer. Much of Julian's work in Irish genealogy was done through his membership of the **IGRS**.

He joined the **Society** in **1969** and immediately became immersed in voluntary work. From **1970 to 2003** he served on the editorial committee of the *Irish Genealogist*, the Society's annual journal, and he was **Honorary Editor** in **1988-1989**. In **1971** the **IGRS Tombstone Sub-Committee** was established, and Julian was its secretary throughout its existence. Its endeavours culminated in the **2-volume Tombstone Inscriptions** compilation produced by the **IGRS** in **2001**.

In the **early 1970s** he was one of a group of **IGRS** members who arranged occasional lectures in **Dublin**. This led to the official formation of the **IGRS Ireland Branch** in **1986** and he served as **Chairman** of the branch from **1986 to 1990**. Julian was elected a *Fellow of the Society* in **1975**. He was appointed to the **Council** in **1983** and he has been a *Vice-President* since **1988**.



The Irish Genealogical Research Society –  
dedicated since 1936 to the  
study of Irish genealogy

In more recent years Julian has been involved in genealogy and local history in the **Waterford** area. He was editor of *Decies* (the journal of the **Waterford Archaeological and Historical Society**). In **1990** he began work with the *Waterford Heritage Survey*. This involved record indexing, conducting research and running a heritage induction course, before undertaking the conservation of the library of *[Christ Church Cathedral, Waterford](#)*. This involved work on **3,000 books**, some dating from the **sixteenth century**. He later conducted similar work on the library of *[St. Fin Barre's Cathedral, Cork](#)*, at the *[Boole Library](#)* in **University College Cork**.

Julian lectured widely on aspects of **Irish** genealogy and local history. He spoke at the **1st, 2nd, and 3rd** editions of the *Irish Genealogical Congress*, giving the keynote address at the **2nd IGC**. His many contributions to **Waterford** history included popularising the subject through a weekly slot on the local radio station *[WLRFM](#)*, starting in **1993**. Two selections of his radio stories were published in the **2010s**, with accompanying audio discs.

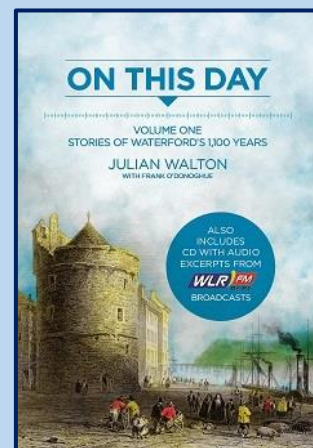
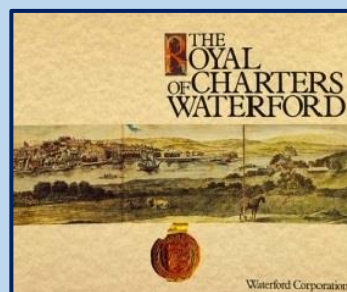
Perhaps his most lasting contributions to Irish heritage are his writings. His book *The Royal Charters of Waterford* was published in **1992**. He contributed articles to various periodicals, including *[Decies](#)*, *[Analecta Hibernica](#)*, the *Irish Ancestor* and, of course, the *Irish Genealogist*. Those in the *Irish Genealogist* include various 'Beginners' Pages' published in between **1980 and 1987**, miscellaneous transcribed monumental inscriptions, hearth money rolls from **Co. Kilkenny**, references to **eighteenth century Irish** inhabitants of **Cadiz, Waterford Freeman 1542-1650**, and detailed histories of the *Aylward and Bolton families*.



**Steven Smyrl, Chairman of the Council of the IGRS**, announcing the *Wallace Clare Award* recipient for **2021**, said: '*Julian is thoroughly deserving of this year's*



*award. His dedication to the pursuit and promotion of Irish genealogy over many years has had a very significant impact on the development of Irish ancestral research. The IGRS has benefitted greatly from his membership.'*



Click on the Books to Above to Purchase Online.

## Official Launch of QHubs: The National Standard for Centres and Hubs Across Ireland.

The **National Quality Standard for Centres and Hubs across Ireland-QHubs**- was launched recently by **Damien English, TD, Minister of State for Business, Employment and Retail** at the *Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment*. (Pictured Left). The



aim of the **QHubs Standard** is to raise the quality, environmental and innovative performance of the sector, with the structure of the Standard reflecting relevant **ISO Standards**.

The emerging **Standard** has been co-created by the sector with significant input from hubs and centres around the country over the last **10 months** under the management of **Dolmen Innovation and Design**. Our own organisation will oversee and actively support the rollout of the Standard across the national network during **2022 and 2023**- funded by **Enterprise Ireland** and with the support of the *Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment*. Our combined ambition is that this new Standard will ensure the national hub network continues to support the realisation of a sustainable and balanced national development model for **Ireland**.

We have also brokered a partnership with **Skillnet Ireland** and the **Small Firms Association**, developing the **QHubs Journey** to support you



and your colleagues over the coming months as you prepare to join the new **National Quality Standard Framework in 2022**. **MentorsWork** is the first phase of this **QHubs Journey**, and this preparatory programme will offer you the opportunity to join a creative learning pathway which is being designed to meet the ongoing training, mentoring, and learning support needs of the managers and staff across the national network. The programme will support eligible enterprise centre and hub managers nationwide to improve the performance of centres and hubs across a wide range of areas including quality, environmental and innovation performance as well as developing the mindset of everybody to *Live the Quality Framework* as we all go about our work across the sector. Within the programme, the learner's experience will be a modular journey comprising of **1:1 mentoring, mandatory and opt-in webinars, master classes and workshops and access to an online learning platform** curated with targeted content. A key outcome for the learner will be a **Business Improvement Plan** for the centre or hub with a specific focus on the next steps necessary for implementation of the **National Standard**.

This new **Standard** is very exciting news for the sector and coincides with a new departure for us as we reposition the organisation as **Community Enterprise Association Ireland (CEAI)**. You will see our new name and brand emerge, capturing the core of *What We Do* and *Who We*

*Stand For*, allowing us to articulate and promote the spirit of community enterprise in a succinct way. All this work will be supported by a strong media campaign, managed by **Unique Media** who have been retained on our behalf. The name change and refreshed logo is a ‘soft launch’ at first, with a full campaign launch following to coincide with **Global Entrepreneurship Week**.

There will be a new website with a ramped up social media presence and increased engagement. Our new website presence will be an evolving process and we ask that you bear with us as we phase the development of the site and content development. We do, of course, welcome your support and active engagement with the campaign as it kicks off and we would especially encourage you to share your latest news stories with us, which we will share onwards with the media as we build our profile and media engagement in the weeks and months ahead.



## More Important than ever to Support our Social Enterprises

The concept of a Social Enterprise is more understood now due to the publication of the long awaited *National Social Enterprise Policy for Ireland 2019-2022*.

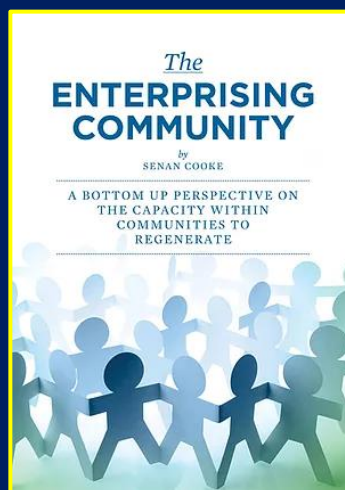
In the eventual aftermath of **Covid-19**, the development and support of social enterprises will play a key role in the rebuilding of the economy and society.

The social enterprise sector in **Ireland** offers approximately **25,000 - 35,000 jobs**, generating up to **€1.4 Billion** in economic activity and addressing many challenges faced by **Irish** society.

According to the **European Commission**, the social entrepreneurship sector currently employs **40 million people** and engages over **200 million volunteers globally**-a clear indication of the sector's potential.

**Social enterprises** strive for sustainable and socially inclusive growth, an approach which creates jobs and opportunities for all within society, especially those who may find employment difficult to attain.

*"There is no power for change greater than a community discovering what it cares about".*  
-Margaret J. Wheatley-



*"The Enterprising Community is not just about business and economics. It involves the viability of a social, economic and cultural ecosystem that sustains the Irish economy".*  
-Dr. Senan Cooke-

Click Above for  
**National Social Enterprise Policy for Ireland 2019-2022**

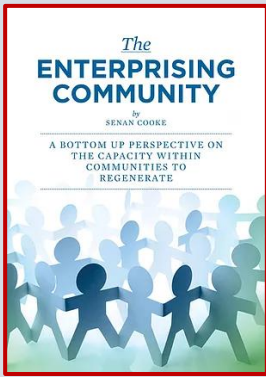


Click Left for Link to  
**Social Impact Ireland**

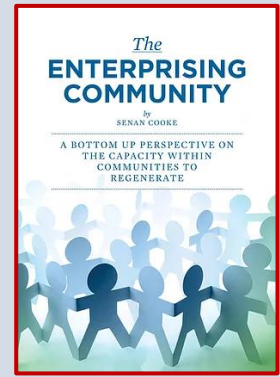


# The Enterprising Community

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](mailto:theccjoffice@gmail.com) or on 089 252 9885**

We would like to thank all those who have written for us, supported, and encouraged us and who, despite the busy year they have had, have always been ready and willing to contribute to this publication. Without their generosity of time and spirit there would be no magazine. So, to each and every one of you, have a very Happy Christmas and be safe!

