



# WINTER NEWSLETTER 2017



Merry  
Christmas

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## Editorial



Another year coming to an end with the Christmas celebration. Progress was made in the social enterprise sector in 2017. A year long study was completed in Waterford city and county by Dunhill Rural Enterprises in partnership with Waterford SICAP and Social Finance Foundation. The final report by Seamus Goggin is short but the findings are interesting and well worth reading. The report can be accessed at [www.ccj.ie](http://www.ccj.ie). A second study involving Waterford, Cavan and Ballyhoura Leader Partnership was also completed and written by the Social Finance Foundation and can be accessed from [www.ccj.ie](http://www.ccj.ie). A report on the process involved in the research was written by CCJ Chairman and accessed from [www.ccj.ie](http://www.ccj.ie). There is interesting information on how voluntary teams and projects classify themselves and all the confusion that lies at the heart of social enterprise definition in particular on the issue of trading. It is clear that the department study is urgently needed to define and co-ordinate the resources linked to the sector and to get many social enterprises off the ground.

The Department of Rural & Community Development in partnership with Social Finance Foundation have held their workshops and completed their online survey. Outcomes are awaited with anticipation. Once the analysis is completed the new policy and 10 year social enterprise strategy will be launched by end of first quarter, 2018. That event will herald a major change in status for social enterprise in the country. We all look forward in anticipation to promoting social enterprise as a legitimate economic concept in the future with many supports organised to support its development. Happy Christmas and a Peaceful and Prosperous New Year.



# Ballyhale's Main Street Project



Ballyhale, South Kilkenny is famous for its outstanding hurlers. In 2015 it formed a local development group to complete a new hospitality project, Billy's Tearooms and Shop, on Main Street. The parish of Knockmoylan, Ballyhale, and Knocktopher (KBK) is renowned as a famous hurling nursery in GAA club history. Current stars include TJ & Richie Reid, Michael & Colin Fennelly and Joey Holden. It is home to recently retired Henry Shefflin winner of 10 All-Ireland medals and rated among the greatest players ever to have played the game is from the parish. Ballyhale Shamrocks built its hurling reputation on skill, craft, teamwork and team spirit.

The parish is home to the captains of 9 Kilkenny All-Ireland winning teams. Jimmy Walsh 1932 & 1939 and Liam Fennelly 1991 & 1992 each captained two winning teams. The parish has accumulated over 100 All-Ireland senior medals, 15 county senior championships and 5 All-Ireland club championships. This renowned spirit permeates many aspects of community life.

Ballyhale in the early years of the new century was bypassed by the N9 motorway. During recent financial crisis 2008-2017 it witnessed the closure of 5 shops, 3 pubs, the post office and numerous local businesses. In 2015 the community decided something needed to be done to revitalise the area. A committee researched the feasibility of opening a Tea Rooms and Shop, run by the community for benefit of community. The team identified a suitable building on Main Street which was a protected structure and owned by the County Council.



## Top Right

*Martin Holden*

## Back Row

*Pat Bookle, John Kenneally, Brian Murphy, David Murphy, Richard Kenneally.*

## Front Row

*Janet Ging, Noreen Murphy, Noeleen Hearne, Helena Cody*



Mark Aylward, TJ Reid and Joey Holden



Henry Shefflin

A first step for the project team was to visit a similar development in Loughmore, Co Tipperary. Mary Fogarty and friend opened a tearooms and craft shop in 2011 which was hugely successful. It generated interest in a new wave of developments in her area. Mary explained the steps in the process she had followed through to conclusion. This information was very beneficial to the Ballyhale group who were encouraged by what they had seen and heard to forge ahead with their plans.

The new development project was registered as KBK Co-operative Shop Society Ltd. A voluntary board of 10 directors was appointed. The community was offered and accepted a 99 year lease at €1 per week by County Council. The Council commits to supporting communities that demonstrate a willingness to provide services and facilities in their local area. The council and councillors rowed in behind the proposed project from the very first meeting. Kilkenny Co Council, Heritage Council and Leader Partnership Board were extremely helpful. They provided plenty of encouragement and advice on acquiring the building, on restoration works, planning requirements, business plan, eligible grants and fitting out of premises. The cost of the project amounts to €145,000.

The board was encouraged by Leader to demonstrate an ability to raise funds locally. Ten successful fundraisers were held over past two years. Support for the project has exceeded their expectations and the local fund raising and grants are covering projected costs. Further work will take place once the shop is opened, it will be covered by more fundraising, grants and loans in due course. The board is currently preparing a community co-op share scheme offer at €25 per share to circulate among the 500 homes in the parish. Share owners will be registered as Co-op members and will have voting rights for AGM.

Loan funding was secured from Community Finance Ireland. A conservation architect was employed to produce a report for Conservation and Heritage Departments of Co Council prior to making a planning application which was duly granted in August 2016. Conservation works began in August 2017. Renovation of the building is currently underway with targeted completion and opening date, March 2018.

On Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> November an information meeting was held in local parish hall which attracted a large and enthusiastic attendance that pleased the board members. There is a sense of renewal and belief in the community that a commercial renaissance is about to take place.

Ballyhale Shamrocks GAA is planning a major development at their grounds which is about 100 metres up the street from the tea rooms & shop. The regeneration of every community begins with the first step and Billy's Tea Rooms is the first step for KBK. It will instil confidence among other community groups and private individuals to consider the other enterprise options that are open to them. Every community in the county will be interested to see how the project fares and they will be encouraged by it.

Mary Fogarty, Loughmore is one fine example of how voluntary communities are eager to collaborate with each other on their development plans. Communities Creating Jobs is a voluntary national shared learning network that shares ideas, solutions, best practices and replications freely within its network. Its website [www.ccj.ie](http://www.ccj.ie) and quarterly newsletter has interesting information for voluntary community groups and agency staff. Contact Seamus at [ccj@dunhillecopark.com](mailto:ccj@dunhillecopark.com)

Ballyhale is making a statement of intent with its bold entry into the commercial sector. It is indicating an intention to protect the social and economic cohesion of the community. There is no limit to what can be achieved by communities and state agencies working together on agreed development objectives.

# Waterford Social Enterprise Research Project 2017



The Social Finance Foundation (SFF) of Ireland visited DFBA (Dunhill, Fenor, Boatstrand, Annestown) in June 2016 with a view to considering a research study into the social enterprise sector here in Waterford. Subsequent to this site visit SFF contracted Dunhill Rural Enterprises Ltd (DREL) to conduct research in social enterprise in Waterford City and County over a 12 month period.

The initial research commenced in October 2016 and by March 2017 270 potential social enterprises were identified and then contacted by email and asked to complete an online survey monkey questionnaire. An additional 55 potential social enterprises were contacted by the local PPN coordinator. The local PPN also facilitated us at their district meetings in promoting the research study and its purpose.

Despite many difficulties we finally achieved 168 completed responses (equates to a response rate of 51.69%) which is much greater than the normal response rate to similar online surveys.

In tandem with our research in Waterford, Cavan and the Ballyhoura region (East Limerick and North Cork) engaged in a similar study under the management of the SFF. The collective research findings are now part of the strategy for the development of a national 10 year plan for social enterprise here in Ireland between the SFF and DRCD (Department of Rural and Community Development).

The DRCD and the SFF hosted workshops in Athlone, Cork and Dublin in early November and social enterprises from all around the country were invited to attend. All in attendance were asked to fully participate in discussions as to how best to implement the process. The outcomes from these workshops are now being considered and it is expected to have the policy in place the end of the first quarter of 2018.

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Seamus Goggin

Project Officer Waterford

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## Social Enterprise Toolkit

A resource for communities  
and individuals setting up  
a social enterprise in Ireland

As momentum builds behind the Irish Social Enterprise initiative at government policy level, so too are various steps being undertaken among bodies supporting the Social Economy, aimed at ensuring that both start up and existing “More Than Profit” businesses are equipped with an equivalent level of assistance as those within the conventional business movement.

One such step has been the development of the country’s first toolkit for those interested in establishing a Social Enterprise in this country. The toolkit, which has been glaringly absent from the scene to date, boasts a one stop point of information for the many and varied elements of support sought by communities and social entrepreneurs intending to replicate the success of those from across the globe, in realising the po-

tential of an economic model delivering real social impact.

The initiative is the brainchild of Irish Social Enterprise Network Co-Founder and CEO, Chris Gordon, who has spent the last decade immersed in the workings of the Social Economy both in Ireland and abroad. A member of the national Social Enterprise Task Force, among his many credits, Mr. Gordon is also the CEO of BCorp Ireland, as well as sitting on the SME/SE sub-committee for the new National Children’s Hospital.

The toolkit, is primarily aimed at setting up a social enterprise for the first time and gives an entry level look at topics such as marketing and finance as well as legal structures and links to other supports. It has been financially sponsored by a Tri-partite of entities with a particular vested interest in the structured emergence of Social Enterprise on the island -

**Community Finance Ireland** formerly UCIT (Ireland), is a Charity which provides loans exclusively to other third sector organisations such as community groups, charities, sports clubs and social enterprises in the Republic of Ireland. Since 2001, as part of the wider UCIT Group, they have committed in excess of €90 million to over 500 organisations across the island of Ireland.

**Dublin City Local Enterprise Office** is based at the Dublin Civic Offices on Wood Quay. They aim to promote entrepreneurship, foster business start-ups and develop existing micro and small businesses to drive job creation and to provide accessible high quality supports for their Business ideas. Support is available for businesses with up to 10 employees.

**Dublin South City Partnership** is a local development company which addresses issues of disadvantage, unemployment and social exclusion across a large part of south Dublin city.

The company provides a range of services, 'from cradle to grave', that includes support for community child-care projects, education programmes for children and adults and a range of services supporting unemployed people on their journey back to education, training and work. They also support individuals and groups who are developing small enterprises.

The Toolkit was launched by Ardmhéara (Lord Mayor) Mícheál Mac Donncha at the Wood Quay Venue on the 12<sup>th</sup> December, at an event which coincided with the now annual Dublin Social Enterprise Awards, and is now available to everyone. Click [here](#) to view the toolkit.

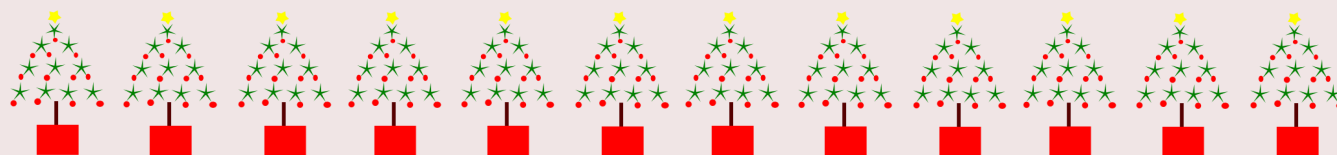
For many years now, those involved in the Social Economy have despaired at the seeming inequality of supports accessible to achieve their goals when compared to the conventional business sector. The Social Enterprise Toolkit will serve to complement a new wave of initiatives, such as the recent online consultation on Social Enterprise undertaken by the Department of Rural and Community Development, Social Enterprise mapping exercises commissioned by the Social Finance Foundation, and a free Pan European learning programme for business advisors seeking to support Social Enterprises (Sesba), involving Limerick Institute of Technology.

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*I believe that every human mind feels pleasure in doing good to another.*

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*Thomas Jefferson*



### **QQI Level 6 Introduction to Social Enterprise - Collaborative Programme**

Waterford Social Enterprise Network (WSEN) funded by Waterford Area Partnership and Waterford & Wexford Education & Training Board has delivered the first QQI Level 6 module Introduction to Social Enterprise Development in Waterford.

The module is being taught through the innovative Virtual Community College established by An Cosán ([An Cosán VCC](#)) which enables students from as far afield as Waterford City and Ballyduff Upper to participate on the same course but without transport costs and travel difficulties. As a result the course is more accessible to those within rural areas where the transport infrastructure is not conducive to attending classes outside of the immediate community.

The course consists of eight sessions. The first and fifth sessions are delivered face to face and the rest of the course over 6 three hourly sessions where all students were logged on to the system either in their own homes, their workplace or with others in a suitable equipped space.

The course brought together participants from a diverse range of community & social projects that aim to increase their sustainability by trading as a business whilst maintaining the focus of their social mission.

The first session, which was a face to face workshop concentrating on induction to the technology, took place in St. Patrick's Gateway Centre which is, in itself, a developing social enterprise.



The aims of this programme are to:

- **Critically examine current relevant theories and definitions of social enterprise.**
- **Explore the role of social enterprise in sustainable community development.**
- **Support learners at whatever point they are in their social enterprise journey.**
- **Explore key stages of social enterprise development:**
  - \* Identifying both community assets and needs
  - \* Developing a social entrepreneurial response
  - \* Implementing a social innovation response
- **Identify the challenges and opportunities at key stages:**
  - \* Social and economic analysis: community assets and needs
  - \* Design thinking for social innovation
  - \* Developing a comprehensive business plan and an appropriate funding model
  - \* Developing a 'living' strategic and annual implementation plan
  - \* Governance - building a board
  - \* Management - building and leading a team
  - \* Quality assurance and evaluation
  - \* Developing strategic partnerships
- **Explore the contribution of technology and social media to social enterprise development.**

The Certificate is designed to support learners to develop skills and confidence in designing, managing, maintaining, funding and scaling a social enterprise. Tools and resources for these tasks will be made available. The Certificate will also introduce learners to key ideas in social enterprise studies.



# Clann Credo Launches €10m Community Sports Loan Fund



The announcement of €56 million in Sports Capital Programme funding will provide a much-needed boost for more than 1,700 clubs and sporting groups around the country.

“We congratulate the clubs who have been named as Sports Capital Grant recipients and we can help them to boost the benefits of their grant with Community Loan Finance”, says Paul O’Sullivan, “But we can also assist those clubs who were disappointed not to be allocated a Sports Capital Grant.”

“This year there was a record number of applications totaling 2,320 for the Sports Capital Programme and a very high standard was required for successful projects. Yet our experience is that even projects with an approved grant can face obstacles in accessing the finance which is often needed to access the grants”.

Many sports clubs encounter difficulties in accessing loans on reasonable terms, and volunteers are often asked to give personal guarantees or even asked to borrow in their own names. Clann Credo never asks a volunteer to guarantee a club’s loan.

Clann Credo is launching a new €10m Community Sports Loan Fund that will help sports clubs who may not be able to borrow on reasonable terms. They will be hosting a workshop in the new year. Keep an eye on Clann Credo’s website for more information [www.clanncredo.ie](http://www.clanncredo.ie)

Clann Credo has already loaned over €10 million to more than 100 amateur sports clubs around the country, enabling more people to enjoy the benefits of sport, providing better facilities, better club houses, better training facilities, better equipment.

Some of the sports Clann Credo have funded include: GAA; Judo; Soccer; Watersports; Archery; Baseball; Gymnastics and Community field sports. In addition to providing community loan finance to sports clubs, Clann Credo has also provided €27.6 million for community facilities around the country, many of which include sporting facilities.

“We don’t think that finance should be an obstacle to making the changes needed”, says Paul O’Sullivan “We never ask for personal guarantees from volunteers. As well as providing Community Loan Finance, Clann Credo also provides decades of expertise in the community and voluntary sector.”

To read more about Clann Credo’s €10m Community Sports Loan Fund click [here](#)

To watch a video of how Clann Credo supported Stella Maris FC click [here](#)



**“Clann Credo is unique. It is essential and laudable and the work Clann Credo is doing is incredible. I would encourage people to look at what Clann Credo has to offer and to see what that support can do for your own community.”**

*Eamon Dunphy*



# CRAOL

The Community Radio Forum of Ireland  
Fóram Raidió Pobail na hÉireann

## Community Radio Gets the Community Talking

The Irish Community Radio sector has had its fair share of difficulties over the last number of years, but like many of the community and social enterprises out there, it is hoping that 2018 will develop on the first signs of stability and growth experienced this year and give a renewed interest and support for the sector.

Community radio stations operate differently from commercial and public radio in that it operates under the Amarc charter which states that all individuals have the right to communicate and access the airwaves. Individuals who live in areas which are serviced by a community radio station can get involved in their station. There is no need for prior experience in radio production as all training is provided as part of the station's service to its community. All stations are owned by their communities and are formed as companies limited by guarantee or registered co-op societies.

2017 has seen the first new full broadcasting license being granted to Community Radio Kilkenny city, the first since 2012. This station joins another 20 stations across the country who broadcast locally in their communities via the 2000 or more volunteers who produce and present content across these services as well as over 100 jobs which are supported through employment schemes such as the Community services programme and employment schemes. There are also a number of temporary stations who operate on a 30 or 100 day license who are also at various different stages of development.

Each station is uniquely different but are supported and represented nationally through CRAOL - The community radio forum of Ireland. The organisation primarily focuses on the support and development of community radio. Through the combined efforts of the coordinating committee and contracted project coordinator, they coordinate and implement an annual list of training events for its members as well as offering an on-going support and helpdesk for its members. The organisation is primarily funded and supported by the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland.

Craol is also a registered provider of QQI Accredited training and many of its members now deliver certified training within their own communities which is quality assured by Craol. Craol has also developed a training initiative with the support of The community foundation of Ireland to run a number of free accredited training programmes to various demographics in communities across Ireland. One of the current projects supports marginalised groups such as former prisoners, Travellers, Immigrants and LGBT.

To find out more about community radio visit [www.craol.ie](http://www.craol.ie) for more information or follow us on our social media profiles

[www.facebook.com/craolire](https://www.facebook.com/craolire)

[www.twitter.com/craol](https://www.twitter.com/craol)





Station representatives attending training run by CRAOL in October. Events like this are run throughout the year which allows stations to network and share experiences with one another as well as develop new skills.



Pictures from a live studio audience debate recording carried out by Wired Fm as part of their recent training project – It took place in the Wired FM studios, MIC Campus, Limerick.

The discussion centered around advocating for issues identified by a group of people who have been studying Media Expression at the station. The panellists were Jan O' Sullivan TD, Sindy Joyce, a PhD student with the Department of Sociology at UL, Sarah Jane Hennelly - Social Democrat for Limerick City, and Dr. James Ring (CEO of Limerick Chamber).

Participants from Near Fm's recent QQI Media expression course with their trainer which was completed recently at the station. This course targeted immigrants living in and around North Dublin who came together to make a programme about their experiences living in Ireland and is one of a number of programmes which will make a national series that will be broadcast in 2018 across the network.



# Social Innovation Fund Ireland



## Irish Communities Set To Overcome Any Hurdle



A Resilient Communities Fund, created by Social Innovation Fund Ireland ([SIFI](http://www.socialinnovation.ie)) and supported by Tomar Trust and the Department of Rural and Community Development, via the Dormant Accounts Fund is open to local projects strengthening community resilience. The deadline for applications is 31st January 2018. Up to 8 Awardees will receive an award between €40,000 and €100,000. The award will consist of a 75% cash grant and

25% in business supports. Social Innovation Fund Ireland are looking for innovative projects that can demonstrate how they are strengthening community resilience whilst delivering economic, social and environmental impact for their localities.

For information or to apply, go to <http://www.socialinnovation.ie/resilientcommunities/>

## New Hires



Social Innovation Fund Ireland are delighted to announce that John Evoy has joined the team as Social Enterprise Development Manager. John is the founder of the Irish Men's Sheds Association. Set up in 2011 it now has 420 member sheds with 10,000 participating men each week. John has won a number of awards for his work with Men's Sheds, and for his previous work in men's well-being and social entrepreneurship, including an Irish People of the Year Award in 2015. He sits on a number of non-profit boards, including The Wheel.

## €7m Fund Rewards Educational Innovators

The winners of the Social Innovation Fund Ireland (SIFI)'s Education Fund were announced in October by the Minister for Education and Skills, Richard Bruton TD. Worth €7 million, the fund is the largest SIFI fund to date and is made up of 50% private philanthropic funding, self-raised by the awardees. The other half comes from Government, through the Department of Rural and Community Development via the Dormant Accounts Fund.



The 10 awardees, who will share the €7 million are Trinity Centre for People with Disabilities, An Cosán Virtual Community College, Cork Life Centre, Churchfield Community Trust, Focus Ireland “PETE – Preparation for Education Training and Employment, Fast Track Academy “City Wise Education and IT Tallaght”, iScoil Speedpak Group – Enhanced Skills Traineeship and Trinity Access 21, and DPS Engineering and UCD Foundation - “Aspire 2”.



### Healthy Rewards For Projects Selected For 2017 Animate Fund Awards

In November, Minister of State at the Department of Rural and Community Development, Seán Kyne, T.D announced the ten awardees of the 2017 *Animate* Fund. The *Animate* Fund is a commitment between Social Innovation Fund Ireland, Medtronic, and the Department of Rural and Community Development from the Dormant Accounts Fund. To mark its second year, the *Animate* Fund was expanded to include the Healthy Community Awards, supported by Medtronic. Of the ten awards granted, nine went to projects promoting good health and wellbeing, and healthy lives for all, and one award was dedicated to an early stage innovation project with smart responses to general community issues.

The 2017 Awardees are: Cork ARC Cancer Support House’s Secondary Cancer Support Programme, Dublin Rape Crisis Centre ‘BodyRight’, Irish Society for Colitis and Crohn’s Disease (ISCC), Living Well with IBD, KICK (Kickboxing to Inspire & Challenge Kids) Tallaght, Pavee Point Traveller Maternal Health Initiative, Dublin Simon Community ‘Suicide Specific Treatment Track’, COPE Galway ‘Eat Well, Live Well, Age Well, The Children’s Grief Centre Limerick, Tipperary Rural Traveller’s Project, Not So Different Programme, Coolock.



# Community Finance Ireland Bolster Role with €100m Fund for Community Organisations



Terri Martin who is a former Ulster Bank official, has taken up the latest administrative role with Community Finance Ireland which provides finance to local community organisations, social enterprises, sports clubs and charities.

Community Finance Ireland is one of the largest providers of finance to the community and voluntary sector on the island of Ireland over the last 20 years and has up to €100 million available in funding. Community Finance Ireland works with community organisations and social enterprises that are delivering an immediate social impact to their community or area but who are struggling to get finance from traditional bank lenders.

Terri, who is originally from Meath, but living in Louth, is a former Ulster Bank Senior Customer Services Official with over 12 years' administrative experience in banking and finance. Terri is hugely immersed in community and voluntary activity and has been very active with her local Gaelic Football Club, as a manager of various underage teams.

A key element for organisations that partner with Community Finance Ireland is the relatively straightforward loan application and approval process that is involved. It is the aim of Community Finance Ireland to ensure that the services provided by community and voluntary organisation are not restricted due to a lack of finance.

To date, Community Finance Ireland, as part of the wider community based UCIT Group, has funded over 500 community and volunteer organisations on the island of Ireland across a range of sectors and projects, including enterprise and workspace projects, rural development projects, childcare schemes, housing associations, community transport, energy & environmental initiatives and sports and recreation facilities.

Donal Traynor, Associate Director of Community Finance (Ireland) said, "It's wonderful to have an experienced administrator such as Terri join the Community Finance Ireland team, because in addition to her career in banking and finance, she has been heavily involved in member owned, community based entities for decades."

With an eye on the group's next move, Traynor has also intimated that recruitment will continue into 2018, at which point Community Finance Ireland will embark on hiring another Lending Relationship Executive for the Dublin area, building on the upsurge of demand they have experienced for their product offering across the island over the past 2 years in particular.

Borrowing from Community Finance Ireland has the added benefit that it creates a virtuous circle for the community enterprises, as all profits are retained and recycled for re-investment, which increases the level of available funds for other community organisations.

Local organisations wishing to receive information about Community Finance Ireland can visit [www.communityfinance.ie](http://www.communityfinance.ie)



# Winners of Nationwide Competition Announced

## 7 Social Entrepreneurs to Receive Funding and Support Worth Over €450,000 from Private Investors

**A Geodesic Dome, STEAM Education, a Sailing Programme for Recovering Addicts, and an Affordable Housing Scheme—just some of the ideas to receive seed funding and support, with the potential for further investment**

Funding and support of over €6.77 million has been invested to date, from private sector donors, through Social Entrepreneurs Ireland ([SEI](#)), to support new innovations tackling issues affecting Irish society. This is an addition to the significant non-financial support also provided equivalent to over €2 million in value, including coaching, mentoring, business development, training, and pro-bono support from some of Ireland's leading corporate organisations.

DCC plc, the international sales, marketing, and support services group, is the flagship supporter of the Awards and SEI's largest and longstanding corporate partner.

**This year alone the social entrepreneurs supported by SEI are providing services which reach over 1.7 million people across Ireland, and currently employ 1,345 people.**

In February this year, Social Entrepreneurs Ireland launched a nationwide competition, searching for big ideas to solve Ireland's social problems. Hundreds of applications were received and following a rigorous selection process, the seven winning entrepreneurs were announced on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October at an Awards Ceremony in the Mansion House to an audience of over 600 people, including prominent leaders in Irish business.

Alternative solutions to the housing supply crisis, addiction rehabilitation and under resourced primary schools—just some of the issues being tackled by social entrepreneurs to receive funding and investment from Social Entrepreneurs Ireland this year.

Speaking at the Social Entrepreneurs Ireland Awards at the Mansion House in Dublin, CEO Darren Ryan said:

*"We are delighted to announce the 2017 Social Entrepreneurs awardees. They are ambitious, driven people with innovative solutions to Ireland's social problems."*

Speaking about the work of Social Entrepreneurs Ireland he said *"entrepreneurs are constantly iterating. They find solutions to gaps in services. This is a recognised approach in the commercial sector. We take the same approach to gaps in services in the social sector. We look for people with innovative approaches to tackle the issues that are affecting Irish people across the country and we give them the support to scale their impact and effectiveness."*

# And the Winners are...



**Alice D'Arcy and Grainne Bagnall with STEAM Education**

a programme to bring STEM subjects and art into the classroom



**Hugh Brennan of O Cualann Cohousing Alliance**

an affordable housing solution



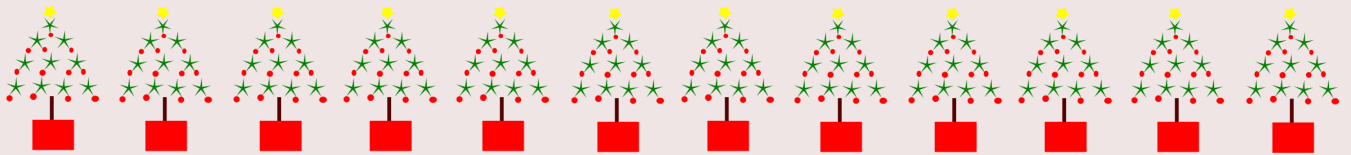
**Duncan Walker with The Green Garden Kitchen and Café**

which supports people with intellectual disabilities to find meaningful employment



**Colin Healy and James Lyons with Sailing into Wellness**

an exhilarating and therapeutic sailing programme for vulnerable or marginalised groups



**Niall O'Brien with The Grow Dome Project**

turning wastelands into community spaces using geodesic domes



**Stephanie O'Malley with Education DESTY**

an online programme to support children with additional emotional needs



**Tammy Darcy with The Shona Project**

a programme of supports, a survival kit for girls, provided in schools and online for young girls to overcome personal challenges.

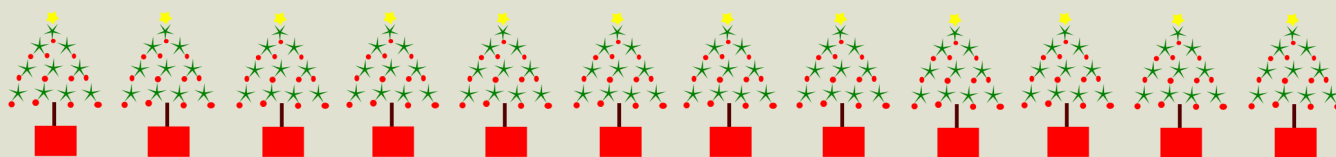


SEI provides critical support for social entrepreneurs to help them scale their impact around Ireland.

MC's for the Awards Ceremony were former SEI Awardees Aoibheann O'Brien, co-founder of FoodCloud and Adam Harris, founder of AsIAM. Since winning the SEI Award, FoodCloud has gone on to provide 20 million meals for those in need and AsIAM has become a leading platform for support and advocacy for the Autism community in Ireland.

Speaking at the Social Entrepreneurs Ireland Awards, CEO of DCC plc, the flagship sponsor of the Awards, Donal Murphy said:

*"DCC's relationship with Social Entrepreneurs Ireland has gone from strength to strength over the last seven years and we take great pride in our role as flagship sponsor of the annual Awards Celebration. DCC has backed commercially focused entrepreneurship for more than 40 years and we equally believe that the creativity and passion of Irish social entrepreneurs can make a significant contribution to solving our greatest challenges as a society. We are delighted to have the opportunity to play a part in celebrating the achievements of this year's Awardees and look forward to following their progress in the years to come."*



## Waterford One World Centre



The [Waterford One World Centre](#), based out of the Dunhill Ecopark in Dunhill Co. Waterford, is a global education organisation specialising in promoting ethical and responsible consumer behaviour. We work with young people in both formal and non-formal settings as well as within the community raising awareness about the importance of sustainable living and the role that responsible consumption plays within the development of sustainable communities. Recently, the Waterford One World Centre was the Irish representative of a three-year European Union project, SUSY, which aimed to promote social and sustainable economic initiatives across Europe.

As part of this work, the Waterford One World Centre, working in partnership with the Waterford Social Enterprise Network, held the first 'Social Saturday' in Waterford designed to provide space for social entrepreneurs to showcase and promote their work. This event took place at the Kilmachthomas Workhouse on 23 September 2017 and featured film, performance art, music and a fashion show in addition to a number of social enterprises from around Waterford City and County including: Loved Again, Rebike, EU Direct, Treo, Tramore FM, Ballybeg Greens, Repeal the 8<sup>th</sup>, and Traditional Crafts. We hope to build on this event and continue to provide opportunities for social enterprises to meet and network with members of the community.



# Clann Credo Lauded in OECD Report on Social Enterprise



Clann Credo, Ireland's leading Community Loan Finance, provider has been cited as one of Europe's best examples an organisations supporting social enterprise.

Ireland has made "significant progress in addressing the financial exclusion of community organisations and social enterprises," through the provision of Community Loan Finance from Clann Credo, according to the report OECD/European Commission report *'Boosting Social Enterprise Development: Good Practice Compendium'*.



Mr Michael Ring T.D. and Paul O'Sullivan

The report was recently presented to Mr Michael Ring T.D., Minister for Rural and Community Development, by Clann Credo CEO, Paul O'Sullivan, at a meeting in Louisburgh GAA Club, Co Mayo, one of more than 900 organisations that have benefited nationally from Clann Credo's community loan finance provision.

Minister Ring said that the report provides further evidence of the value of social finance services such as those provided by Clann Credo.

"I am very aware of the immense commitment and contribution made, day in-day out, by community, sports and similar organisations throughout the country. As Minister for Rural and Community Development, I am determined to ensure that this work

is acknowledged and supported by government as effectively as possible.

"The contribution of Clan Credo in assisting community based initiatives to obtain funding and social finance loans in an accessible and user-friendly manner cannot be understated. It provides a very valuable support to enable many badly needed projects to survive and prosper," he said.

In presenting the report to the Minister, **Paul O'Sullivan** thanked Minister Ring for his long and very dedicated commitment to tackling rural and community based issues.

Paul O'Sullivan said that "It is particularly appropriate and relevant that the report is being presented to the Minister today in a rurally-based community organisation. People in these small towns and rural areas are determined to create jobs, services and a better living environment for people at a local level."

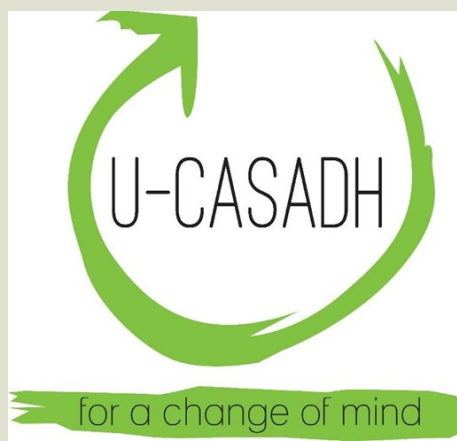
**John O'Toole**, Secretary of Louisburgh GAA Club, expressed his strong appreciation of the support of both the government and Clann Credo to community and sports development.

"The role of Clann Credo has been vital, in that it enabled our club to take advantage of government supports and funding in ways more beneficial than through conventional banking arrangements, in particular through their 'plain English' approach to formal contracts and agreements," he said.

The OECD/ European Commission Report, which examined social finance models in a number of OECD countries, also found that "Clann Credo developed a proven operating model over many years."

Clann Credo is Ireland's largest Community Loan Finance provider. To date it has loaned over €90 million to over 900 community based organisations.

To read the report in full, click [here](#)



U-Casadh is a social inclusion project and registered charity based in Belmont, Ferrybank on the border of Waterford and Kilkenny. Our mission is to be a catalyst for change in attitudes to crime, social exclusion, rehabilitation and justice.

Conor Fell was appointed Social Enterprise manager in June 2017. As well as maintaining present Social Enterprise activity, Conor has been carrying out feasibility studies on a number of stand alone enterprises which are outlined below.

### **Summary**

Since taking up the position of Business and Employment Manager I have actively sought to develop the structure that is entailed in creating sustainable commercial income. In the zone we operate within, this process is a more arduous one. The main reason is that in linking the variables of different funding streams, commercial viability and capacity within the organisation is less organic than in a normal commercial setting. We know that the potential of U-Casadh to create a sustainable profit in social enterprise is real. Added to a financial return, the potential of social enterprise methods to engage, train and provide real employment for participants cannot be understated. Many studies examining social enterprise and its benefits when working with those who have offended have been hugely positive. Arguably the most prominent exponents of this line of research Laub and Sampson have found that the link between desistance and social enterprise is undisputed. They outline that social enterprise promotes desistance in four principal ways:

1. Providing routine activities thereby reducing criminal opportunities.
2. Enabling a reciprocal exchange of social capital between employer and employee.
3. Providing informal social control.
4. Giving the individual a sense of purpose and identity.

While developing the structural basis for sustainable enterprise and exhausting funding streams to match, we have also undertaken and have completed a number of contracts. These contracts have been successful on a number of levels whilst also being ad-hoc. In completing the contracts outlined below there are a number of factors that we endeavor to adhere to. Firstly, those selected to take part must show a strong work ethic which must be displayed on a daily basis during the project. Secondly, in carrying out the activities contained in the contract the supervisor follows the principles of core correctional practice. Lastly, the contracts are delivered on time and to a high standard.



## At a Glance

Three contacts have been carried out since July. In completing the contracts there have been a number of people given paid work experience. The following table outlines the figures involved.

	Gross	Profit	No. Jobs	Hrs. Work
<b>Maintenance</b>	1030	510	2	24
<b>Yulefest</b>	7000	2250	6	320
<b>Savor</b>	4081	780	14	546
	12,111	3,540	22	890

Participants have been drawn from the services provided by U-Casadh.

	CE	Outreach	Atelier
<b>Maintenance</b>	1	1	
<b>Yulefest</b>	2	2	2
<b>Savor</b>	8	2	4
	11	5	6

## Maintenance

I priced and completed a maintenance job on a property being prepared for the rental market. The job included filling a skip, cleaning fascia and soffit, strimming, power-washing and repairing a gate. The client expressed positive feedback and the appreciation for the conscientious nature of the participants' work ethic.

## Yulefest

We priced, designed and delivered 60 standing displays for the Kilkenny County Council. These are intended for display during the Yulefest festival. The pieces are being sent out to schools in the locality and groups working with disabilities. Here the pieces will be painted and sent back to us for final spraying.



## Savor Kilkenny

I priced and oversaw the completion of a contract for the Savor Kilkenny Festival. The job was carried out over the period of a week and included, fence erection and supervision, stewarding, overnight security, site cleaning and fence disassemble. The engagement levels displayed by participants was exemplary with hugely positive feedback coming from those in charge of the festival.

## Comments from Clients

“For the second year in a row U-Casadh have delivered a high quality product, on time and with a personal touch. I look forward to working with the guys long into the future” *Grace Quinn Kilkenny County Council*

“I love the story of U-Casadh. When I meet the lads they continue to challenge my pre-conceived notions. But first and foremost they deliver”. *Mary Mulholland Kilkenny County Council*

“I have to say, I was a little bit sceptical of relying on a social enterprise to execute a vital role for Savor. How wrong was I! I can’t speak highly enough of the guys they went above and beyond what was expected” *Chairman of Savor Kilkenny Festival*

“First class service cannot be faulted. I would be delighted to work with them in the future” *Savor Kilkenny Festival Event Organiser*

## **Future Developments**

### ♦ *Kitchen*

U-Casadh has secured the funds to develop an industrial kitchen and training facility. Funds were sourced from Kilkenny County Council with matched funds being sourced from the Kilkenny Leader Programme and the Department of Justice. The facility will allow for the training of participants, creating real job opportunities. The Restaurants Association of Ireland have stated that there will be a shortage of up to 18,000 workers by 2018. The facility will also develop a solid skills base to meet U-Casadh’s medium/long term goal of setting up a food business.

### ♦ *Tech Enterprise*

U-Casadh are on course to begin a new tech based enterprise in the first quarter of 2018. The business will have three core elements:

- Innovative Festival Design
- Promotional Merchandising
- Artisan Furniture Production

The projected costs of the venture, include capital equipment and running costs that amount to 90,000 euros. The business will employ a positive discriminatory employment policy, in that, employees will be drawn from the key groups we work with. Initially we will employ two full time and five part time staff. I have secured 30,000 euros from State street bank in Kilkenny. An application through KLP for RDP funding is in process and will act as matched funding for the monies already in place. The remaining €30,000 will be sought through a number of avenues, which will give us a start date of approximately March 10<sup>th</sup>.

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Michael McGagh

Outreach Worker U-Casadh



# Community Finance Ireland to Provide Another First for UCIT Group on the Island

Associate Director for Community Finance Ireland, Donal Traynor, recently participated in a select panel of speakers, invited to present to the Irish Muslim community at an event organised by MAC Investment Strategies, and hosted by the Islamic Cultural Centre in Clonskeagh. Other speakers included Minister for State at the Department of Finance, Michael D'Arcy TD, Simon O'Neill, an Islamic finance expert based at Philip Lee Solicitors, and Dr Samir Alamad, Head of Sharia Compliance & Product Development, Al Rayan Bank in London.

The event was arranged on the back of an upsurge in interest within the country's Muslim population to, among other things, join in the development of much needed community infrastructure, but in a manner conducive to their religious teachings. The Islamic Faith prohibits the payment of interest, engaging in speculation and activities which are deemed to be detrimental to society throughout the course of a Muslim's financial dealings. In most other countries, this is facilitated via a bespoke Islamic banking system, operating in tandem with the teachings of the Quran. To date, products typical of such a banking system have been an obvious omission from the Irish scene.

Now, for Muslim community based groups at least, Community Finance Ireland in conjunction with Philip Lee Solicitors, are bringing a product to market, which will provide an ethical solution to community lending, compatible with the requirements of Shari'ah law.

Associate Director with Community Finance Ireland, Donal Traynor says "For the past few months CFI have been fielding enquiries from the Muslim population in Ireland, amounting to just shy of €2m worth of social investment, in projects with total costs of approximately €6m featuring. The common denominator here being, the absence of anything other than conventional interest bearing debt provision available from the mainstream banking system in Ireland". Mr. Traynor added that, in co-operation with Simon O'Neill of Philip Lee Solicitors, they have developed a product which is a first for the country, and has passed the preliminary review of an accredited Shari'ah scholar.

Over the coming months, it is anticipated that the first of the above enquiries will be formally approved, subject to standard conditions, paving the way for a financial product offering facilities ranging from €30k - €500k being made to these community groups. Thus providing a similar level of accessibility to social finance as those groups who have benefited from investment across the entire island to date by Community Finance Ireland and its parent body, UCIT, in Northern Ireland.



Donal Traynor, Community Finance Ireland, speaking at the Islamic Cultural Centre of Ireland



L-R Dr Samir Alamad, Head of Sharia Compliance & Product Development, Al Rayan Bank in London., Simon O'Neill, Philip Lee Solicitors

# Ireland's Ancient Feast

The first people to arrive in Co. Waterford were hunter-gatherers and they settled along the coast and river estuaries 8,500 or so years ago.

So for this year's Harvest Festival, The Sea Gardener celebrated this settlement with an "ancient feast".

We chose the Anne Valley as our venue for foraging – Annestown Strand provided red, green and brown edible seaweeds and shore molluscs, such as periwinkles and the hedgerows and verges of the Anne Valley were abundant with autumn fruits and nuts. We had gathered and dried the delicious leaves of meadowsweet, clover and comfrey earlier in summer.

Having foraged for our wild food, we cooked up a tasty feast in the remains of the dining hall of magical Dunhill Castle.



*Pictured above: Dunhill Castle*



*Pictured above: Ireland's Ancient Feast*

Although this is a Norman Castle, it is widely considered that a Mesolithic settlement is likely to have existed on this site: a bluff overlooking a river, just 1 km from the sea, would have provided almost all of the food and materials needed for survival.

This was a most enjoyable event to plan, research and partake in and we hope to repeat it!

Spending time outdoors in nature is one of the best ways to relax. Identifying edibles and gathering wild food connects us even more to the natural world. Imagining the life of Mesolithic settlers allows us to consider simpler, more sustainable ways of life. Ireland's Ancient Feast was designed to enable us to do all this in a fun and convivial way.



We must give thanks to be able to do this in such a beautiful place and to appreciate the wildness that is still present, to some degree, in the Anne Valley. We need to hold onto these natural places and resist the attempt to “develop” them in any way. Overgrown verges, unpolluted beaches, old-style country roads with little or no car traffic, tree & scrub-covered glens, stream and wetland (all places with wild foods growing in them), quietness, and the remnants of a 1000 year old castle provided the perfect setting!

Here are some reactions from the participants:

*“The location for the session was spectacular, Annestown Beach and then the De Paor Castle ruin”*

*“Your day allowed me to discover the Copper Coast, when travelling from Cork I have never before turned right in Dungarvan!!”*

*“The feast was amazing as it put into taste and showed use of the wild foods collected. The preparation that went into this relaxed feast was very professional. I had no idea that when we climbed up into the venue that it would be laid out so beautifully and that we would really be feasting!!!.”*

*“We had a wonderful time at the event! We enjoyed all aspects of it - loved it all!! It was great value for money and we would definitely recommend it to people with similar interests.”*

*“The castle setting was a real novelty and the atmosphere/standard of presentation of food was excellent!”*

Marie Power, aka, The Sea Gardener, is a seaweed forager and educator and produces a range of healthy snacks using seaweed from her home in Co. Waterford.

For more information see the below links:

Website: [www.theseagardener.ie](http://www.theseagardener.ie)

Facebook: [The Sea Garden](https://www.facebook.com/TheSeaGarden)

Twitter: [@seagardener1](https://twitter.com/seagardener1)

