

# Bere Island Newsletter

Issue 82

Summer 2022



*Above: Greenane, Bere Island*



*Above: Oileáin na gCaorach on a sunny day*

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### Bere Island Oral History

A project to record the oral history of Bere Islanders at home, and abroad is now underway. Earlier this year Bere Island Projects Group were one of a small number of community groups who were successfully accepted onto the Heritage Keepers programme, a new initiative set up by the Burren Beo Trust and facilitated by The Heritage Council. Heritage Keepers supports communities to explore their built, natural and cultural heritage and then initiative action plans to enhance their area. A number of islanders signed up to take part in a 5-week online training programme, which also included community groups from Westport, Co Mayo and Labasheeda, Co Clare. The training programme guided the groups through a process of researching their local area and formulating an action plan, with the Bere Island group deciding to work towards recording an oral history of the island.

Funding from the Heritage Keepers programme enabled the group to bring Dr Angela Maye-Banbury to the island to facilitate a weekend of workshops and a public meeting. Dr Maye-Banbury, a native of Tyrone, is a senior lecturer in oral history at Sheffield Hallam University, England and has had extensive experience in recording oral histories throughout the world. She has recorded the oral history of Achill Island ([www.achilloralhistories.com](http://www.achilloralhistories.com)) she is also working on an oral history of the Irish in Hell's Kitchen, New York City.

Angela spent the weekend of 28<sup>th</sup>/29<sup>th</sup> May on Bere Island holding a workshop on the principles of oral history and best practice in recording it. Angela thoroughly enjoyed her visit to Bere Island and will be working with the group throughout the project, and is confident an oral history of Bere Island would be a huge resource, "Bere Island could easily produce a sizeable collection of oral history interviews, which could place the island on the world stage, as I've discovered from my visit the history of the island is just extraordinary."

Anyone who would like to participate in the Bere Island oral history project, either by helping to record stories, or would like to be recorded can contact Helen at [bereconservation@gmail.com](mailto:bereconservation@gmail.com) or call 027 75099.

(Submitted by BIPG)



Above: Dr Angela Maye-Banbury on her recent visit to Bere Island

#### BIPG Office

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#### Tourism

**Festival Fund** - An application was made to Cork County Council local festival fund, but it was decided by the tourism team that it would be more appropriate to apply for marketing funding rather than local festival funding. The Local Festival Fund is specifically for the funding of a festival, whereas our application outlined activities associated with marketing multiple events and festivals associated with the Islands over a period. The tourism team have asked us to apply to their marketing fund and that will be completed soon.

**Destination Experience Development Plan** - Jude Gilbert and John Walsh have been asked to be part of the implementation team tasked with delivering The West Cork Coast Destination and Experience Development Plan and The Three Peninsulas West Cork and Kenmare Destination and Experience Plan. The first meeting was held on Thursday May 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Tourism Network** - A networking event for Island Businesses is being organised with the support of Failte Ireland and Cork County Council. A speaker from the Aran Islands will talk to the group about their experience of working with mainland businesses to bring visitors to the Islands. Failte Ireland and Cork County Council will also present to the group on work that they are undertaking in 2022. This meeting will be held online and will take one hour, as we realise that businesses are getting busy, and we will follow up again in the Autumn.

**Lonehort Master plan** - The EOI for the Lonehort Masterplan was approved by the West Cork LAG and BIPG have put a RFT on etenders to identify suitable consultants to do the plan. An application will be sent to the LAG when a consultant is secured.

### ICAN

Bere Island Projects Group are one of four community groups in Cork who have been accepted onto the Irish Community Archive Network (ICAN) programme.

ICAN was established by the National Museum of Ireland in 2008. Its main aim is to encourage and support communities to collect and share their local history and heritage online.

Working in partnership with local authorities, ICAN has supported the creation and development of twenty-eight online archives to date in Clare, Galway, Mayo and Wicklow.

With much of Ireland's material and intangible cultural heritage in the care and ownership of its citizens and diaspora ICAN is empowering local communities to document their own history, heritage, and culture on digital platforms. For further information or if you have any items you would like to share

with the archive, please contact Helen on [bereconservation@gmail.com](mailto:bereconservation@gmail.com) (Submitted by BIPG)

### After school Club

The after-school club will take a break until September after a fun filled year of creativity and enjoyment. The staff were happy with the sessions in a relaxed atmosphere each week with plenty of chat and humour. (See photo to right) See you all in September, enjoy the summer and be safe.

(Submitted by BIPG)



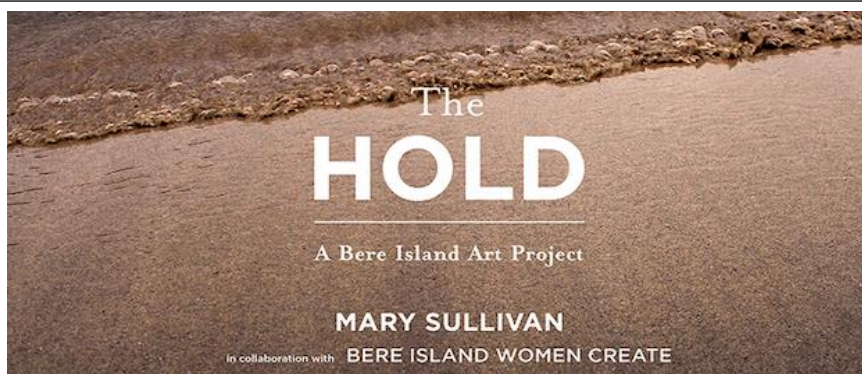
**Comhar Na nOileán** Blueways Development - An application has been prepared, processed and has just been approved to employ a Blueways Project Animator for the West Cork Islands through the LEADER Funds. A procurement process has taken place and a company will be offered the contract to carry out the work over the next few weeks. There are many aspects to the development and a lot of preliminary work to be carried out and this work will take up to 1 year to complete. Liaising with the local communities and providers of tourism services on the Islands and adjacent mainland is a key element of the work. The work will get under way in September and will involve a high level of engagement. The work of the animator will entail progressing phase 1 of the development and will include;

- Develop Blueway pilot sites selection criteria
- Assess and 'write up' selected trails for inclusion in the Blueways project
- Complete an initial Trail Planning Questionnaire/site assessment to include identifying areas of interest along the trail.
- A risk assessment also has to be carried out to review the potential of a proposed Blueway to meet Accreditation Criteria.
- Secure approval of Blueway pilot sites by National Trails Office
- Promote and create awareness of the Blueways Pilot project
- Prepare to develop a Blueways brand, and pilot site infrastructure plans with communities along the route
- Develop a Blueways Pilot Project Report

**Liaise with key Blueway project stakeholders which includes but it not limited to:**

#### Blueway Steering Committee

Cork Sports Partnership	Inland Fisheries
LEADER Company Partners	Irish Canoe Union
Fáilte Ireland	National Trails Office
Disability Federation Ireland	Local Stakeholders including existing water sports providers, Local Community Representatives
Kinsale Outdoor Education Centre	Irish Underwater Council
Parks & Wildlife	Cork County Council (Observational role)
Birdwatch Ireland	



*The Hold*, will open on Bere Island on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> June at 3pm in the Drill Hall Rerrin. The exhibition, documents the lives of twenty-four Bere Island women throughout the Covid-19 pandemic and the hold the island has on them. The women, formed a collective - Bere Island Women Create - and during lockdown worked remotely with award winning island artist Mary Sullivan to use art as a way to express their lives as island women. The exhibition will run until Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> June, opening daily from 10am to 5pm. *(Submitted by BIPG)*

### **Bere Island Farmers Market**

The farmers market was a great success in 2021 and the group are planning to hold a number of markets during July & August this year. The market is open to everyone living on the Island during the summer months. If you are interested in having a stall, please let the office know and we can get you set up. Bakers are needed for this summer so if you would be interested in baking, we would be delighted to have you. *(Submitted by BIPG)*

### **Bere Island Festival**

A meeting was held on Wednesday June 2<sup>nd</sup> to see who is available to work on the festival in 2022. The last festival was held in 2019 and the hope is to have one again this year. The committee believes that the time is right to bring new people on board to generate new ideas and to organise the festival, so a public meeting is planned to be held on Tuesday June 7<sup>th</sup> at 8pm in the community centre. This will happen before the newsletter is published so if you are interested in getting involved in the 2022 festival, please give your name into the office. *(Submitted by BIPG)*

### **ESIN**

**The NESOI project** met in Samsø Island Denmark on the 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> of May. The project brings together Islands from Ireland, Denmark, Scotland, Finland and France to the event which is being facilitated by Søren Hermansen of the Samsø Energy Academy.

**ESIN will attend the Annual meeting of CPMR** on May 12<sup>th</sup> where a memorandum of understanding will be signed between ESIN & CPMR. This will be an important partnership for both parties.

**ESIN will hold their AGM** on the Island of Kihnu Estonia on the 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> of September. The AGM conference theme is Habitability and Island policy development, and all Island stakeholders are invited to take part.

### **Energy**

Meeting held with Minister Eamon Ryan about the new one stop shop retrofit scheme. The Island top up only applies to the warmer home scheme and we asked the Minister to reconsider this. The Minister and SEAI agreed to look at costs on an individual Island basis instead of including them with the nearby mainland which overlooks transport costs to the Islands. *(Submitted by BIPG)*

### **Rural Recreation Officer**

Comhar na nOileán CTR are delighted to report that an application for a Rural Recreation Officer for the Irish Islands was successful. Áine Seoighe has now been appointed and has started in her post since the beginning of May. The Year 1 priority is to liaise with the community organisations who are managing trails and waymarked ways on the Cork Islands not already included in the Walks scheme. The Rural Recreation Officer will offer support to those organisations and carry out an assessment of works, access funding and cooperate with the local organisation. Extending the Walks scheme to all the Cork Islands is also a priority and liaising with farmers will be a key element of the work. The compilation of local outdoor strategies for trails and waymarked ways for each of the islands will be carried out. The role covers all the Irish Islands, and the aim is to attract support for farmers and communities on the Islands. Áine is only starting in her role but we will be visiting each island over the coming few months to meet with the community groups, Comharchumann and farmers.



**Bere Island Water Safety week will commence on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2022.**

## Fishing

**IIMRO PO Membership.** Please ensure that your producer organisation membership is up to date by paying your annual membership fee. €100 per crew member per annum. Membership of the PO ensures we have a strong and united voice from the islands in matters marine. Work is underway in delivering our 3-year plan to improve prices for catches, develop onshore infrastructure etc. If you haven't already done so, please pay online by credit or debit card at <https://bit.ly/iimropomembership>

**IIMRO iVMS.** As part of our PO plan IIMRO are teaming up with CLS to trial a small boat inshore VMS system in Donegal, Mayo, Galway and Cork shortly. The aim is to look at pros and cons of the system and see how it will best work for members. Details in last month's Marine times. More info on the CLS Nemo system is at <https://bit.ly/iimronemo>

**Brexit Onshore Infrastructure Fund.** The first round of the BAR fund has been announced. There are some island projects on the list, but we need to keep lobbying for further investment in future funding rounds. Next one is in June. Please contact your local councillor and mention the IIMRO infrastructure list which we submitted to Cork County Council. Details of first round funding are here: <https://bit.ly/iimrobarfund1>

**Mackerel Hook and Line 2022.** The department have put new management arrangements in place for the mackerel hook and line fishery. Boats need to book in to take part in the fishery. Forms and further information are available at <https://bit.ly/iimromackerel22> Completed forms to be sent to [fisheriesbooking@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:fisheriesbooking@agriculture.gov.ie) and you should get confirmation within 2 days. Forms also available from local IIMRO reps if needed.

**Lobster V Notching programme** has reopened and details are here: <https://bim.ie/fisheries/funding/inshore-fisheries-conservation-scheme-v-notching-support/>



### National Lottery Good Causes Awards 2022

Bere Island Projects Group are among the six groups in Cork who have been announced as County winners in the National Lottery Good Causes Awards 2022.

It's the second time Bere Island has featured in the Good Causes Awards, the group made reached the finals in 2019.

The awards were created to honour and showcase the inspiring work being carried out by thousands of projects, clubs and individuals in their local communities across Ireland thanks to National Lottery Good Causes funding. Nearly 30 cents of every euro spent on National Lottery games goes back to Good Causes all over the country.

Bere Island Projects Group are winners of the heritage category for their work in documenting and commemorating the island's military history as part of the Decade of Centenaries. The group will now go through to the national heats of the competition.

*(Submitted by BIPG)*



*Above: Dominic and Ted doing live coverage of the matches at the 2022 All Ireland Inter Islands Football Tournament on Bere Island. The radio broadcast for 11 hours covering all the matches.*

### Bere Island Summer Camps

will take place from

4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> July

&

8<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> August

from 9:30am to 1pm daily

at the Rec, Bere Island. Children aged 6 – 13 years are welcome to join in, in activities such as arts, crafts, foosball and loads more fun. Cost is €5 per child per day (discount for more than 1 child). Please bring snacks, raincoat and sun cream. For more details contact Tim on 085 1679052 or email [timbipg@gmail.com](mailto:timbipg@gmail.com)

*(Submitted by BIPG)*



**Whiddy Island Development Association**

Congratulations to Whiddy Island Development Association on the official opening of their brand-new community centre on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2022 (see photos above). The official opening was carried out by Graham Canty and Deputy Lord Mayor Patrick Gerard Murphy. The build was made possible by local fundraising to “buy a block” for €100 as well as a Leader grant. This a great asset to the island and we wish them every success for the future. *(Submitted by BIPG)*



**Bere Island GAA**

hosted the All-Ireland Inter Islands Football Tournament on May 21st last. Mens & ladies teams from 9 islands took part in what turned out to be a glorious day of skilful football. Bere Island A Mens’ team were successful, coming out on top after a hard-won semi-final. Bere Island Ladies got through to their semi-final but unfortunately were knocked out at that stage. The calibre of football was outstanding, and we look forward to further success next year when Clare Island host the 2023 tournament. We would like to thank Bere Island Community Radio for providing excellent commentary of the matches and all the



volunteers who assisted on the day and in the planning stages before-hand. Commentary of many of the matches have been combined with video footage and can be watched by following the links on our Facebook or Twitter (@bereislandGAA) The event was also featured on TG4’s 7 Lá programme. *(Submitted by Bere Island GAA)*



### School News

Cork City Sports - Our school participated in Cork City Sports on Friday the 3rd of June 2022. We left on the 8:30 ferry and arrived around 10:30. We went on a bus to M.T.U sports pitches which were huge! We ate a bit then we had to sit and watch other races until it was our race which took place at 12:15. The first race was for girls born in 2009 which none of us were in so we waited 2 races and then 5th class went then 3rd. At 1:30 Jason ran! We all did very well, unfortunately none of us made it to the top 3 but there is always next year. We had loads of fun and I hope we can go in 2023. By Lena



### FOTA

On the 13th of June we are going to FOTA. It will be a two and a half hour drive. It's going to be such fun. When we get there, we are hoping to see giraffes, zebras and kangaroos. We will have lunch there and hopefully the monkeys won't steal any of it. There is a big playground there as well. We are all looking forward to it and are so excited to go. By Abby

### All Islands Football Finals

Some of the Islands around Ireland came to Bere island for the 'All Islands' around Ireland football tournament.

For the ladies football the teams in group one was A Whiddy Island B Árainn Mhór and C Clare Island. Group 2 was A Inis Mór B Inishbofin and C Bere Island. The first match for group 1 was Whiddy Island v Árainn Mhór. The second match for group 1 was Whiddy Island v Clare Island. The third match for group 1 was Árainn Mhór v Clare Island.

The final for the men's was Bere Island v Whiddy Island and Bere Island won. Dean Hegarty won man of the match and Cihan Harrington was the captain. A great day was had by all. A few of the people from the Bere Island teams came to visit the school and we had a mini match with them. By Feya and Emily



**Pet day** It was pet day at school. Everyone who had a pet brought them. There were lots of pets there. Jason brought King Julien who is a kitten that belongs to his granny. Erica brought Puss who is a kitten. Lena brought Moon who is also a kitten. Feya brought Cheeto who is a cat. Abby brought Sandy who is a dog. Emily brought Piglet who is a Guinea Pig. The small room brought 1 chicken, 1 fish, 2 dogs and 2 teddies. It was really fun seeing all the animals. By Jason Harrington and Erica Murphy.

**The Back-to-School Clothing and Footwear Allowance (BTSCFA)** helps to meet the cost of uniforms and footwear for children resident in the state who are attending school. The scheme opens on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2022 and closes on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022. Foster children are not eligible for BTSCFA. If you previously applied, you will receive a letter before 20<sup>th</sup> June confirming you will be paid automatically. Children must be between 4-17 years of age on 30<sup>th</sup> September or between 18-22 years of age returning to a full-time second-level education in a recognised school or college in the Autumn of the year you are applying.

You may qualify if you are:

- Getting a social welfare payment or HSE payment **or**
- Taking part in an approved employment scheme **or**
- Taking part in a recognised education or training course **or**
- Getting a daily expenses allowance for a child in education (or for yourself if you are 18-22 and returning to full-time second-level education) **Or**
- Involved in an Area Partnership Scheme **or**
- Attending a FET (formerly Fás) **or** Failte Ireland training course

**Income limits**

Number of children	Income limit	
1 child	€620	
2 children	€668	
3 children	€716	
4 children	€764*	The income limit is increased by €48 for each additional dependent child
<b>Savings and investments assessment</b>		
Capital	Weekly means assessed	
First €5,000	Not taken into account	
Next €10,000	€1 per €1,000	
Next €25,000	€2 per €1,000	
Balance	€4 per €1,000	

**Rate:** The 2022 allowance of €160 for 4–11year olds will be paid on 30<sup>th</sup> September. Each eligible child between 12-22 years will be eligible for a payment of €285 on the same date.

**To Apply:** If you do not receive an automatic payment, you must apply online for BTSCFA on [www.mywelfare.ie](http://www.mywelfare.ie) by 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022. (Submitted by BIPG)

**Student Grant Scheme (SUSI)** is the main financial support for students studying in Ireland and abroad. Student grants are divided into 1) Maintenance grants 2) Fee grants. Maintenance grants help students with the cost of living. Fee grants pay tuition fees for students who do not qualify for the Free Fees Scheme. Fee grants can also pay the Student Contribution and the cost of essential field trips. The grant application process is open to all applicants from 28<sup>th</sup> April 2022. If you are already getting a student grant, you can submit a renewal application from 10<sup>th</sup> March 2022. Student grant applications received by SUSI before 9<sup>th</sup> June (for renewal grants) and 7<sup>th</sup> July 2022 (new applications) will be given priority. SUSI will still accept applications after these dates, but the final closing date is yet to be confirmed. (2021 closing date was November). Applications must be made online either through SUSI or using a verified MyGovID account. If you are unhappy with the outcome an appeal can be made within 30 days. For more details on eligibility, income limits etc. visit [www.susi.ie](http://www.susi.ie) (Submitted by BIPG)

