

Bere Island Newsletter

Issue 86

Summer 2023



Above: The road to Cloughland on a beautiful sunny day! Photo by Helen Riddell



Above: Oileáin na gCaorach. Photo by Tim Hanley

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Bere Island Projects Group CLG were one of a number of community groups who launched their community archive on the Irish Community Archive Network (iCAN) at a nationwide event in Laragh, Co Wicklow on May 31st. The event in Wicklow also marked The Heritage Council's support of the programme.

The Irish Community Archive Network was established by the National Museum of Ireland in 2008 to encourage and support communities to collect and share their heritage online. Working in partnership with local authorities, to date, iCAN has supported the creation of 28 online archives in Clare, Cork, Galway, Mayo and Wicklow, with 8 more in development.

Bere Island Projects Group are one of four community groups in County Cork who are part of the project along with Youghal Community Archives, Kilshannig Heritage Society and the Independence Museum Kilmurry.

Bere Island Projects Group have been actively documenting and preserving the island's heritage as part of their work on the Bere Island Conservation Plan, and in 2022 the group launched a project to record the island's oral history. These recordings will now be available on the island's community archive, along with old photographs and documents, and a mapping of the island graveyard.

Everyone is invited to contribute their stories, photographs and any information relating to the history of Bere Island to the community archive. The Bere Island community heritage archive can be accessed at

<https://bereisland.heritagecork.org>



Photo left: The Cork groups at the launch of the Irish Community Archives Network websites in Wicklow last week. Left to Right: Yvonne Cahalane Cork County Council., Kate O'Reilly Kilmurry Independence Museum, Doney O'Sullivan Kilshannig Heritage Group, Lynn Scarff Director of the National Museum of Ireland, Virginia Teehan CEO The Heritage Council, Dr Martina Moloney Chairperson of The Heritage Council Board, Helen Riddell Bere Island Projects Group, Niall Murray Kilmurry Independence Museum, Conor Nelligan Heritage Officer Cork County Council.



School News

Tidy Islands

Here in school, we have been preparing for Tidy Islands, who are coming sometime around June or July. We have been very busy because we have lots to do. We are cutting the grassy bits near the kerb, then gently brushing it away.

We are also scraping into the cracks to get out all the dirt. We hope to keep our school tidy.

By Marley Sloyan

WASTE COLLECTION 2023

Tuesday 6th June

Tuesday 20th June

Tuesday 11th July

Wednesday 26th July

Tuesday 8th August

Tuesday 22nd August

Rubbish bags should be left outside your home by 5pm on the day. Bags which do not have a sticker will **NOT** be collected. Stickers are €10 per bag and can be purchased from:

Murphy's Shop 027 75004, Heritage Centre 027 75956 & Projects Group Office 027 75099.

Please do not leave rubbish bags out in advance of the collection dates. If you are leaving the island, contact Caitriona (Wild Atlantic Glamping) 086 6027819 or Rachel (Lawrence Cove Marina) 087 9125930 who will arrange somewhere secure for the bags to be dropped to and stored until the collection date.

(Submitted by BITE)

School News - Local History Project

We are learning about local history and are currently doing projects on different landmarks on Bere Island. Everyone got a landmark and had to draw and paint a picture of it. When everyone was finished, we made a Bere Island display on our new school cabinets. We all went to the Heritage Centre and did research on our landmarks and wrote a piece about it. We are in the process of completing our own Bere Island fact book. We created our own maps of Bere Island and included the main landmarks and a map key. We enjoyed looking at the stories of Bere Island that were written by the school children in the years (1937-1938) from the Schools' Manuscript Folklore Collection. We also learned some place names of fields on Bere Island. We learned that at one time, every field on Bere Island had its own place name. Did you know that Páirc Bán means 'The Field of the Daises' and 'Páirc na Scoile' means 'The School Field' and Connacanard means 'The Highest Field'? We also learned the Irish names for the townlands on Bere Island. *By Jason Harrington*



School News – Projects

We made lots of projects this year. They were good and fun. We made octopus projects, flower projects, sports and fruit projects. We made different types of projects like slides, posters and videos. *By Cillian Harrington, Jude Harrington and Anthony Murphy.*



School News - Frogspawn update

At our school we have a pond and there are tadpoles in it. All the children like to look at them swimming around. They are getting bigger every day. They started off as eggs and now they are tadpoles. Soon they will grow legs and then they will lose their tail. We love having tadpoles here especially because we know that soon they will be frogs. So, keep an eye out on Bere Island for some of our frogs! *By Amelia Harrington & Meabh Hobbs*

Strategic Plan

The strategic plan on the marine and offshore potential for the Island and Beara marine businesses has moved on to the second stage and has received funding from Cork ETB again to set up a business cluster for the marine businesses in Beara. If you would like to get involved contact the office.

(Submitted by BIPG)

School News - First Holy Communion

I was the only one to receive First Holy Communion from Scoil Mhichíl Naofa. Our whole school sang 3 songs: Walk in the Light, Christ be our Light and Céad Míle fáilte Romhat. My Holy Communion date was the 30th of April 2023. It was very nice. I got such lovely gifts from everyone.

By Kyla Harrington

School News - Seanfhocail Gaeilge

Tamaill ó shin, d'fhoghlaim cúpla seanfhocail. An chéad cheann a d'fhoghlaim ná 'Níl aon tinteán mar do thinteán féin'. D'fhoghlaim freisin 'Is fearr an tsláinte ná na táinte', 'Maireann croí éadrom a bhad', 'Ní neart go cur le chéile' agus 'Is fearr Gaeilge briste ná Bearla cliste!'. Bhí alán spraoi againn ag foghlaim na seanfhocail. Táimid ag tnúth le seanfhocail nua a fhoghlaim.

Lena Nic Charthaigh agus Emily Ní Mhurchú

School News - Baking

In May we made rhubarb and apple crumble. It was delicious! We picked the rhubarb from the school garden, washed it, cut it and put it in the pot to stew with some water. We also cut up some apples and put them in the pot as well. We made the crumble with flour, butter and brown sugar. We spread the apple and rhubarb out on a tray, then we spread the crumble on top. We put it in the oven for about forty-five minutes until it was golden brown.

By Abigale Harrington



School News – Eyeries Sports Day

We went to Eyeries sports days on the 10th of May on a Thursday. We were split up into our classes for the races. We watched the younger kids run and cheered on the kids in our school until it was our turn for the races. First, we had a warm up. Then all of fourth class went up and ran 80 metres. For the second race we ran 100 metres and for the third one we ran 200 metres. They presented the medals at the end; Kyla won a bronze medal and we were all very proud. We all had a very fun day! *By Feya Maccarthy & Erica Murphy*



Active Retirement

The ARG recently visited the Mealagh Valley near Bantry for a meal and music event with local Active Retirement Groups in the area. The event was held in the local community centre where our group enjoyed the meal and entertainment with set dancing, waltz and even a local storyteller. A surprise visit from Mrs Brown who helped serve the food and had everyone laughing with his/her antics! We have arranged a reciprocal visit for the 8th of June in the Hotel on Bere Island for the Mealagh Groups where a sit-down meal will be organised with music and entertainment organised.

(Submitted by BIPG)



BIPG Office

Open Monday – Friday, 9am – 5pm.

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Website: www.bereisland.net

Commemorations Grant Scheme

Bere Island Projects Group have been awarded €4460 under the Cork County Heritage and Commemorations Grant Schemes to hold a Military Heritage Festival on the island in September, which will also conclude BIPG's programme of events for the Decade of Centenaries and celebrate the island's military heritage and its role during the War of Independence. BIPG plan this festival to become a yearly event,

celebrating all aspects of Bere Island's military heritage, from the construction of Martello Towers in the late 1700s to the presence of the British Admiralty and US Navy during WW1 and the War of Independence. This year's Cork County Council's Heritage and Commemorations Grant Schemes will see €93,309 of funding announced awarded to local community groups. Further details on the festival, which will take place over the weekend of Saturday 16th and Sunday 17th September will be announced over the coming weeks.

(Submitted by BIPG)

Bere Island Conservation Plan

Bere Island Projects Group CLG has been awarded €20,000 under the Heritage Council's Heritage Capacity Fund 2023 to undertake further actions under the Bere Island Conservation Plan.

This year marks the twentieth anniversary of the launch of the Conservation Plan. In 2001 with concerns for the long-term viability of the island community, and a realization that the island's built and archaeological heritage needed to be protected from further deterioration, Bere Island Projects Group, approached The Heritage Council and Cork County Council for their help. Following consultations with the islanders it was decided to put in place a Conservation Plan to protect both the island community, it's cultural, archaeological and built heritage and natural landscape. The Bere Island Conservation Plan was officially launched in 2003 by Éamon Ó Cuív TD.

The funding will be used to work on a number of actions in 2023, including continuing the oral history project, and developing a community archive with the Irish Community Archive Network, holding a full programme of events for National Heritage Week and launching the inaugural Bere Island Military Heritage Festival. *(Submitted by BIPG)*



Pictured above the website where you can access the Bere Island community heritage archive <https://bereisland.heritagecork.org>

Back to School Clothing & Footwear Allowance

The Back-to-School Clothing and Footwear Allowance (BSCFA) is a payment that can help with the cost of uniforms and footwear for children going to school. The BSCFA is paid automatically to many families. If you are paid automatically, you will get a notification on MyWelfare by 8th June and you don't need to do anymore. If you do not get a notification, you can make an application for the payment online at <http://services.mywelfare.ie> until 30 September 2023.
(Submitted by BIPG)



Good Causes Award

Bere Island Projects Group have been announced as the County Winner in the heritage category of the 2023 National Lottery Good Causes Awards for their work in recording the oral history of Bere Island.

Well done to everyone for all the work put into this project.

(Submitted by BIPG)

Men's Shed

A group visited the Men's shed in Allihies recently (see photo below left) in view of starting one up on Bere Island. The lads there have a fine building and have undertaken a few hands-on projects in rebuilding a tractor, a boat and presently a movable living quarters complete with toilet/shower and built in hard wood. David Dudley who hosted our group has been instrumental in the design of the build and gave a great welcome and talk on the history of the shed and handy hints on how our group can go forward. We invite anyone with an interest in participating in a Bere Island men's shed to our next meeting on July 1st at 7.30pm in the community centre.

All ideas big and small are welcome. For more information on men's sheds

visit <https://menssheds.ie>

Stone Wall Festival

It is proposed to hold a stone wall festival on the Island during the summer. Karl Kennedy from the dry stone wall association of Ireland <https://www.dswai.ie/> will visit the Island on the 14th of June to have a look around the Island and tell us about the festivals that he has been involved with on Inis Oírr and of the courses that he can run on the Island. If you would like to meet Karl, you can contact the office. (Submitted by





Above: Ladies' Team:

Back row L-R: Joanne Sullivan, Lena Sullivan, Christina O Sullivan, Laura Walsh, Michelagh Murphy, Ciara Hunt, Leahanne Sullivan,
Front row: Paula Sidley, Becky O Sullivan, Aoife Walsh, Aimee Harrington, Andrea Collins.



Above: Men's team:

Back row L-R: Paudie McCarthy, Darren Harrington, Kevin Sullivan, Sean Sullivan, David Greene, Dean Hegarty, Billy Murphy
Front row - Ultan Murphy, Oisín Murphy(captain) Alan Elphick, Cihan Harrington, Olan Murphy, Luke Sidley

2023 Events

A list of events for the year has been put together. Please see www.bereisland.net/events for more

LADIES Group matches

| | |
|---------------|-----|
| Bere Island | 3-5 |
| Inis Meáin | 0-0 |
| Bere Island | 0-3 |
| Whiddy Island | 1-5 |
| Bere Island | 1-5 |
| Arranmore | 2-2 |

Bere Island GAA

Two strong GAA teams represented Bere Island on Clare Island recently. A huge thanks to the players and everyone who travelled. The teams and coaches should all be very proud of themselves as they did the island proud with a monumental effort by all who toggled out.

The Ladies' team despite an inspiring effort went out before the final on points difference. Clare Island went on to claim victory.

The Bere Island Men's team were hoping to retain the hard-won title from last year but were unfortunately narrowly beaten by the hosts Clare Island in the final. They topped their group with 3 wins. With only 13 players it was a great feat to bring a very strong Clare Island team to within a kick of the ball in the final.

A large Bere Island contingent travelled to support both teams and thanks are extended to all you coached, drove, washed jerseys, and assisted in anyway.

Bere Island Community radio broadcast all matches from pitch side and kept everyone up to date, conveying the excitement of the day.

Next year the event will be held on Arranmore, Co. Donegal.

Purchase your Bere Island GAA gear and support the club online by going to www.oneills.com and searching for Bere Island.

Upcoming Events for Bere Island GAA:
Cúl Camp 17th-21st of July
Aidan Cremin 7 a-side 4th August

MENS Group matches

Bere Island 4-13
Inis Meáin 1-0

Bere Island 0-6
Clare Island 0-3

Bere island 0-11
Inishbofin 1-1

Semi Final

Bere Island 2-12
Arranmore 3-3

Final

Clare Island 0-6
Bere Island 0-4

(Submitted by Bere Island GAA)



Above: Men's shed visit to Allihies

Tourism:

The West Cork Islands community council were offered a stand at the Bord Bia Bloom <https://www.bordbiabloom.com/> on the June Bank Holiday weekend and Kevin McCormack from Heir Island looked after the stand there to promote the Islands. Thanks also to Cork County Council and Pure Cork for inviting us to attend.

The West Cork Islands have also been invited to the Cork Summer show <https://www.corksummershow.com/> to promote the Islands on the 17 & 18 of June at the Cork Showgrounds, if you would like to work on the stand over the weekend to promote your business or the Islands please contact the office.

(Submitted by BIPG)

Our Living Islands – National Islands Policy Document

Minister Humphreys this week launched a new 10-year policy to support vibrant and sustainable island communities, the first whole of Government Policy for the islands in 27 years. The ambitious policy has been developed following an extensive consultation process with island communities and other stakeholders, which enabled them to express their views as to the challenges and opportunities associated with living on islands. The Policy document can be viewed on <https://www.gov.ie/en/policy-information/a7188-our-living-islands> The 3 year Action Plan also contains 80 commitments with a real focus on improving housing and water infrastructure, better access to essential services in health and education, delivering high speed broadband, supporting remote working and further developing outdoor amenities and sustainable tourism. To view the plan visit <https://www.gov.ie/pdf/?file=https://assets.gov.ie/259819/7b1e80a1-74fb-4a99-9eb6-03a2f369ce64.pdf#page=null>.

Among the highlights of the Action Plan:

- Additional levels of support through the Government's Property Refurbishment Grant Scheme **Croí Cónaithe** as part of a major effort to turn vacant or derelict buildings on islands into long-term homes. Under this measure, the existing grant ceilings will be increased by 20% in recognition of the additional costs involved in construction on offshore islands.
- **Vacant Home Officers** will identify vacant and derelict properties on our islands
- The Government's forthcoming **planning guidelines for rural housing** will recognise the unique challenges that island communities face.
- **E-Health Pods** will also be piloted on our offshore islands to give residents and families improved access to health appointments.
- Supports will be provided to **Remote Working Facilities** on islands so that people can live and work within their own community.
- The delivery of **high-speed broadband** to island-based schools, digital hubs and Broadband Connection Points (BCPs) to ensure a reliable connection to the internet for both education and remote working.
- Supports for Outdoor Recreation Activities such as **cycling and swimming**, and expanding the **Walks Scheme** to more island projects.
- Working with Partners and Government Agencies to increase **job opportunities**, including **Apprenticeships** on islands.
- Investment in infrastructure such as **piers and roads**, and the completion of the upgrade of **coast guard stations** of units servicing islands
- Support the development of **Waste Management Plans** for island communities.

Irish Islands Marine Resource Organisation: Brexit Enterprise Development Fund There is 50% funding available, up to €200,000, for eligible businesses with suitable projects. The scheme will end in September 2024. Further information on the scheme is at <https://bim.ie/fisheries/funding/brexit-blue-economy-enterprise-development-scheme/> *(Submitted by BIPG)*