EAGRÁN 11 EANÁIR 2009

NUACHTLITIR CHILL CHOMÁIN

Athbhliain faoi sheán agus faoi mhaise agaibh. Ins an eagrán seo den Nuachtlitir caitheann muid súil siar ar na tograí a bhí idir láimhe againn i 2008. Tá súil againn leanacht ar aghaidh leis an bplean oibre atá leagtha amach i bPlean Forbartha Chill Chomáin 2006-2010.

Is próiseas leanúnach foghlaim feadhsaoil agus forbairt scileanna nua. Ag brath ar éileamh tá sé i gceist Cúrsa Treoraíochta Mara & Tuaithe atá deimhnithe ag Fáilte Éire a eagrú i dtreo deiseanna fostaíochta a chruthú san earnáil turasóireachta. Má tá oiliúint faoi leith de dhíth ort déan teagmháil linn led' thoil agus déanfaidh muid iarracht freastal ar an riachtanas sin. Tá tuilleadh faoi seo ar leathanach 7.

We wish you all a happy and healthy new year. In this edition of the Newsletter we glance back on the projects which were undertaken in 2008. We hope to continue to implement the work plan as set out in The Cill Chomáin Development Plan 2006-2010.

Lifelong learning and the acquisition of new skills is an ongoing process. Pending sufficient demand it is proposed to organise a Fáilte Ireland certified Marine & Countryside Guide Course in an effort to create employment opportunities in the tourism sector. If you are interested in undertaking a training course please contact us and we will endeavour to assist you. For further information please turn to page 7.

*** Nuachtlitir Áitiúil * A Community Newsletter**

*** Guth an phobail ar mhaithe leis an bpobal**

*** Provides a voice for the local community and an update on development issues**

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Foilsithe ag Comhar Dún Chaocháin Teo (i gcomhar le fo-choiste Ghlór na nGael

Coiste Bainistíochta an Chomharchumainn / The Management Committee

Cathaoirleach:	Caitlín Uí Sheighin
Rúnaí:	Seán Mac Aindriú
Cisteoir:	Máire Cáit Uí Mhurchú
Na baill eile:	Micheál Ó Seighin
	Micheál de Búrca
	Micheál Ó Murchú
	Séamus Ó Murchú
	Uinsíonn Mac Graith

RÁITEAS MISIN – MISSION STATEMENT

Is comharchumann forbartha pobail é Comhar Dún Chaocháin Teo atá cláraithe le Clárlann na gCarachumann. Tá sé mar ráiteas misin aige oibriú go gníomhach ar shon forbairt theangeolaíocha/chultúrtha, bhonneagartha, oideachasúil agus shóisialta paróiste Chill Chomáin agus acmhainní nadúrtha agus daonna an cheantair a fhorbairt ar bhealach chomhtháite. Ag comhoibriú le Coiste Ghlór na nGael, grúpaí forbartha áitiúla agus eagraisí éagsúla stáit tá roinnt tograí curtha i gcrích go dáta.

Comhar Dún Chaocháin Teo is a community development co-operative which is registered with the Registry of Friendly Societies. Its mission is to work in a proactive way to promote the linguistic/cultural, infrastructural, educational and social development of the parish of Cill Chomáin and to develop in an integrated way the material and human resources of the area. Working in conjunction with Coiste Ghlór na nGael, local development groups and various state agencies a number of projects have been undertaken to date.

IONAD EOLAIS / INFORMATION OFFICE

Tá oifig na heagraíochta lonnaithe sa Seanscoil i gCeathrú Thaidhg áit a bhfuil:-

Eolas agus comhairle ar fáil do choistí pobail maidir le ról na n-eagras forbartha, conas tograí a fhorbairt agus a bhainistiú, foinsí maoinithe &rl.

Foirmeacha iarratais ar scéimeanna éagsúla mar shampla feabhsú tithíochta, deiseanna traenála &rl.

Seirbhísí cóipéala, laminating agus facs

Seirbhísí eolais do chuairteoirí - léarscáileanna, bróisiúirí, leabhráin, dlúthdhioscanna, cártaí poist, leabharlann d'ábhar béaloideasa agus liteartha Gaeilge, taispeántas grianghraif &rl.

The organisation's office is located in the Seanscoil, Ceathrú Thaidhg where the following are available:-

Information and assistance to community groups in relation to the role of development agencies, developing and managing projects, sourcing funding etc.

Application forms on various schemes including home improvement grants, training opportunities etc.

Photocopying, laminating and fax services.

Visitor information including maps, brochures, booklets, CD ROMs, postcards, a library of folklore and Irish language material, photographs etc.

BAILL NUA / NEW MEMBERS

Má tá spéis agat a bheith i do bhall ar an gcomharchumann agus ionchar níos mó a bheith agat ar chúrsaí forbartha na háite déan teangmháil le Treasa le haghaidh tuilleadh eolais.

If you would like to become a member of the comharchumann and have a greater input into the overall development of the area please contact Treasa for further information.

GUTH AN PHOBAIL – HAVE YOUR SAY

Má tá aon tuairimí agat ar ábhar an nuachtlitir seo nó moltaí le haghaidh an chéad eagrán eile ba bhreá linn cloisteáil uait.

We welcome your comments on the items covered in this newsletter and/or any ideas you may have for the next edition.

Déan teagmháil le:-

Treasa Ní Ghearraigh,
Comhar Dún Chaocháin Teo,
An tSeanscoil,
Ceathrú Thaidhg,
Béal an Átha,
Co. Mhaigh Eo

Guthán: 097 88082
Ríomhphoist: dunchaochain1@eircom.net

SÚIL SIAR / ANNUAL REVIEW

Ag cruinniú cinnbliana Comhar Dún Chaocháin Teo sa Seanscoil ar an 20ú Deireadh Fómhair rinne an bainisteoir Treasa Ní Ghearraigh cur i láthair ar obair na bliana 2008.

Tá caomhnú agus cur chun cinn na Gaeilge ar cheann de na príomhspriocanna atá ag an gcomharchumann. Chuige sin cuireadh Ionad Seirbhísí Teanga ar bun sa Seanscoil, áit a bhfuil cúrsaí Gaeilge agus seirbhísí aistriúcháin ar fáil de réir éilimh. Tá acmhainní tacaíochta foghlama ar nós leabhair, téipeanna, fiseáin agus bogábhar ríomhaireachta le fáil ann atá mar áis do scolairí, grúpaí áitiúla foghlama agus grúpaí a thugann cuairt ar an gceantar le Gaeilge a fhoghlaim nó le taighde a dhéanamh.

Áiritear san iarratas ar 'Thionscnamh Pleanála Teanga sa Ghaeltacht', a seoladh chuig An Roinn Gnóthaí Pobail, Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta, beartais chun an Ghaeilge a chaomhnú agus a chur chun cinn sa gceantar. Tá an coiste fós ag fanacht ar chinneadh ar an iarratas ach idir an dá linn táthar ag obair i dtreo cuid de na beartais a chur i bhfeidhm.

Léiríonn 'An Staidéar Cuimsitheach Teangeolaíoch ar Úsáid na Gaeilge sna Gaeltachtaí' go bhfuil dúthshlán roimh pobail agus eagraisí stáit atá ag feidhmiú sna ceantracha Gaeltachta an Ghaeilge a choinneáil beo mar theanga pobail i bhfianaise a phráinní is atá an staid reatha teanga. Eagraíodh cruinniú faisnéise poiblí sa Seanscoil i mí Feabhra chun gnéithe den Staidéar a chur i láthair phobail Mhaigh Eo. Bhí na húdair i láthair chun míniú a thabhairt ar an modheolaíocht a bhain leis, na torthaí agus na moltaí a phlé agus chun ceisteanna a fhreagairt.

I measc na spriocghrúpaí a dhéanann an comharchumann freastal orthu tá páistí réamhscoile agus bunscoile. Is seirbhísí réamhscoile trí Ghaeilge iad Naíonra Dhún Chaocháin atá lonnaithe sa Seanscoil agus Naíonra Ghleann na Muaidhe atá lonnaithe in ionad nua tacaíochta teaghlaigh i nGleann na Muaidhe. Tá ocht bpáiste déag ag freastal ar Sheirbhís Iar-scoile Dhún Chaocháin faoi láthair san aois ghrúpa 4 - 12 bliana d'aois agus iad ag baint taitneamh agus tairbhe as na gníomhachtaí éagsúla atá eagraithe ann. Faigheann na tograí cúraim leanaí seo airgeadú foirne ón gClár Infheistíochta Náisiúnta Cúraim Leanaí 2006-2010, atá faoi chúram na Roinne Sláinte agus Leanaí agus atá maoinithe ag Rialtas na hÉireann faoin bPlean Forbartha Náisiúnta 2007-2013. Cuireann Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte agus Comhar Naíonraí na Gaeltachta Teo deontas reachtála ar fáil do na naíonraí.

I mí Iúil eagraíodh campaí samhraidh ag ceithre ionad sa pharóiste i gcomhar le Coiste Campaí Samhraidh Iorrais, faoi Scéim na gCampaí Samhraidh d'Aos Óg na Gaeltachta. Is í an Ghaeilge an teanga feidhme sna campaí, a chuireann imeachtaí siamsaíochta, oideachaisiúil agus cultúrtha ar fáil d'aos óg na háite.

Eagraíodh comórtas ealaíne sa chúig bunscoil sa bparóiste i mí Bealtaine. Bunaithe ar théama 'Mo Bhaile Féin' do hiarradh ar na daltaí póstaer A3 a dhearadh agus tuairisc giortach a scríobh ar ghné faoi leith den bhaile. 156 dalta ó rang a' naíonáin mhóra suas go dtí rang a' sé a ghlac páirt sa chomórtas agus ba é an duaischiste iomlán ná luach €600 d'ábhar ealaíne, a bhí urraithe ag Údarás na Gaeltachta.

Eagraíodh imeachtaí eile óige mar shampla tráth na gceist boird, ceardlann damhsa ar an tsean nós, comórtas griangrafadóireachta agus dioscónna.

Is próiseas leanúnach foghlaim feadhsaoil agus forbairt scileanna nua. Eagraíodh roinnt cúrsaí oiliúna i rith na bliana ina measc An Bunchúrsa i Sláinteachas Bia i gcomhar le Meitheal Forbartha na Gaeltachta Teo agus deimhnithe ag Cumann na nOifigí Sláinte Timpeallachta ; Cúrsa Garchabhrach i gcomhar leis an Civil Defence ; Cúrsa Ealaíne agus Ceardaíochta a bhí maoinithe ag Coiste Gairmoideachais Condae Mhaigh Eo ; Traenáil Inseirbhíse Réamhscoile i gcomhar le Forbairt Naíonraí Teo agus Teastas Eorpach na Gaeilge i gcomhar le Ionad na dTeangacha, Ollscoil na hÉireann Má Nuad atá páirt-mhaoinithe ag Údarás na Gaeltachta.

I 2007 mhol Bord Forbartha Chondae Mhaigh Eo straitéis trí bliana chun Maigh Eo a fhorbairt mar chroílár na siúlóide sa tír agus ó shin i leith tá tionscnaimh éagsúla curtha chun cinn ar fud an chondae. Áiritear Siúlóidí Cheathrú Thaidhg sa ghreasán seo - trí shiúlóid chiorclach mar atá Lúb na Trá, Lúb Chlann Lir agus Lúb an Chlaí Dhuibh. Ag tosnú amach agus ag críochnú ó lárionad na Seanscoile, tá gach siúlóid treormharcáilte le dath difrúil ag brath ar a dianacht. Déanann clár eolais agus bróisiúr dá-theangach ildaite cur síos ar sonraí na mbealaí agus ar phointí suimiúla. Chuir Comhar Dún Chaocháin Teo an tionscnamh seo i gcrích le tacaíocht airgeadú ó Fháilte Ireland agus le hionchur ó eagraisí éagsúla mar Bhord Forbartha Chondae Mhaigh Eo, An Roinn Gnóthaí

Pobail, Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta, Scéim Shóisialta Tuaithe Chill Chomáin chomh maith le feirmeoirí agus uinéirí talún áitiúla.

Eagraíodh siúlóidí treoraithe i mí Meithimh mar chuid den Fheachtas Mayo in Motion (i gcomhar le Comhpháirtíocht Spóirt Mhaigh Eo), ar Lá Náisiúnta na gCosán i Meán Fómhair (tionscadal de chuid Fáilte Ireland, Coillte, Comhairle na Tuaithe, Oifig na gCosán Náisiúnta agus An Roinn Gnóthaí Pobail, Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta) agus ar Lá Domhanda Chroí i mí Dheireadh Fómhair (i gcomhar le Foras Chroí na hÉireann).

Is feachtas féin-chabhrach Na Comhluadair Bheo i dtreo bhonneagartha eacnamaíochta agus cultúrtha na háite a neartú. Sé aidhm na gluaiseachta ná próifil an cheantair mar tháirge nó mar cheann scríbe turasóireachta a ardú i measc tíortha Eorpacha mar An Fhrainc agus an Ghearmáin agus líon na dturasóirí a mhéadú. Tá suíomh cuimsitheach idirlíne ina ghné thabhachtach den bhfeachtas atá le feiceáil ag www.gaeltacht.info.

Cuireadh tús le suirbhé ar iarsmaí seandalaíochta an pharóiste i rith an tSamhraidh. Is í Diana Taylor, atá ar an Scéim Fostaíochta Pobail, atá i mbun na hoibre agus í ag aimsiú go leor láithreáin spéisiúla, tuamaí meigiliteacha san áireamh. Tá sé beartaithe torthaí an suirbhé a fhoilsiú amach anseo.

Thug dhá ghrúpa scoláirí Meiriceánacha ó Scoil Thraenála Idirnáisiúna Bhaile Átha Cliath, in éineacht lena stiúrthóir acadúil Aeveen Kerrisk, cuairt ar an bparóiste i mí Feabhra agus i mí Meán Fómhair. Chas na scolairí, atá ina bhfochéimí ó ollscoileanna éagsúla sna Stáit Aontaithe, le daoine atá páirteach i bhforbairt pobail agus i gcúrsaí timpeallachta sa pharóiste.

I mí Meithimh thug os cionn daichead saineolaí portach as tíortha éagsúla na hEorpa agus Ceanada cuairt ar Cheathrú Thaidhg mar chuid de Chomhdháil Idirnáisiúnta na bPortach. Faoi threoir Denis Strong ón tSeirbhís Páirceanna Náisiúnta agus An Fiadhúlra, chomh maith le treoraithe áitiúla, tugadh an grúpa ar thuras eiceolaíochta sa gceantar.

Tá plean oibre athnuachana timpeallachta an chomharchumainn dá chur i bhfeidhm faoi Scéim Shóisialta Tuaithe Chill Chomáin. I measc na h-oibreacha a cuireadh i gcrích i rith na bliana bailíodh bruscar ag tránna agus reiligí áitiúla agus i mbaile Cheathrú Thaidhg, tógadh balla cloch ag dealbh Caochán, rinneadh forbairt ar áiseanna picnice ag dealbh Caochán agus ag Céibh a' Chalaidh i Ros Dumhach, rinneadh áit páirceála in aice na Seanscoile agus rinneadh oibreacha feabhsúcháin ag an tobar beannaithe ag Céibh a' Chalaidh i Ros Dumhach. Cuireadh iarratas isteach ar Chomórtas Náisiúnta na mBailte Slachtmhara le haghaidh sráidbhaile Cheathrú Thaidhg agus tá súil ag an gcoiste roinnt de mholtaí na moltóirí a chur i bhfeidhm i 2009.

D'fhógair An tAire Comhshaoil, Oidhreachta agus Rialtas Áitiúil John Gormley gradaim an Chósta Ghlais 2008 i mí Meithimh agus thug sé le fios go raibh aitheantas faighte ag cúig thrá i gCondae Mhaigh Eo, ní hamháin ar a nglaineacht ach ar bhainistíocht a n-acmhainní neamhmhillteacha cósta chomh maith. Bhí trá Phort a' Chlóidh i measc na dtránna a bhain an gradam náisiúnta seo amach. D'éirigh leis an trá álainn seo treoracha an Aontas Eorpach i leith chaighdeáin uisce a chomhlíonadh agus tá sé beartaithe plean bainistíochta trá a chur i gcrích chun a háilleacht a chaomhnú agus cúrsaí sabháilteachta a fheabhsú. Tá oibreacha feabhsúcháin dá chur i gcrích faoi láthair i gcomhar le Scéim Shóisialta Tuaithe Chill Chomáin.

I mí Aibreáin d'eagraigh an comharchumann, i gcomhar le Comhar Iorrais Leader Teo, turas lae chuig mhargadh tuaithe Chathair na Mart agus chuig táirgeoirí orgánacha éagsúla sa chondae. Thug an turas staideartha, a bhí páirt-mhaoinithe ag Údarás na Gaeltachta faoin scéim Cairdeas, deis do mhuintir na háite labhairt leis na táirgeoirí agus foghlaim uathu.

Ar an 9ú Lúnasa rinneadh seoladh oifigiúil ar Mhargadh Feirmeoirí Iorrais i mBéal an Mhuirthead. Níos mó ná riamh tá daoine ag léiriú spéise i gcúrsaí bia – an caighdeán, an fhoinse, an méid míle a thaisteal sé, an chaoi ar táirgíodh é &rl. Tugann an margadh feirmeoirí deis do dhaoine áitiúla dul i mbun táirgíochta agus seans do chaiteoirí bia úr, séasúrach agus caighdeánach ó cheantar Iorrais a bhlaiseadh cosúil le glasraí, uibheacha cearca agus lachan, ábhar bácála, iasc, luibheanna agus plandaí beaga, táirgí feamainne agus miasa réamhullmhaithe.

Ba mhaith leis an gcoiste buíochas a ghlacadh leis na heagraisí uilig a chuidigh leis i rith na bliana agus tá súil againn leanacht leis an gcomhoibriú i 2009:- An Roinn Gnóthaí Pobail, Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta, Comhairle Chondae Mhaigh Eo, Údarás na Gaeltachta, Comhpháirtíocht Spóirt Mhaigh Eo, Foras Chroí na hÉireann, An Roinn Sláinte agus Leanaí, Forbairt Naíonraí Teo, Comhar Naíonraí na Gaeltachta Teo,

Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte, Comhar Iorrais Leader, Bord Forbartha Chondae Mhaigh Eo, Teagasc, Coiste Cúraim Leanaí Chondae Mhaigh Eo, Fáilte Ireland, An Taisce, Glór na nGael, Óige na Gaeltachta Teo, Coiste Gairmoideachais Chondae Mhaigh Eo, FÁS, Páirceanna Náisiúnta agus An Fiadhúlra, Bord Iascaigh Réigiúnach an Iarthuaisceart, Turasóireacht Inbhuaine Éireann, Teagasc, Eagras Fuinnimh Mhaigh Eo, Ionad na dTeangacha, Ollscoil na hÉireann, Má Nuad, An Choimisiún Logainmneacha agus An Roinn Comhshaoil, Oidhreachta agus Rialtais Áitiúil.

At the Annual General Meeting of Comhar Dún Chaocháin Teo in the Seanscoil on 20th October last the Manager Treasa Ní Ghearraigh outlined the progress made in 2008.

The promotion and preservation of the Irish language is one of the main objectives of the comharchumann (co-op). Irish language courses and Irish translation services are organised in Ionad Seirbhísí Teanga na Seanscoile where a special-purpose training room houses a library of learning resource materials including books, tapes, videos and computer software. The recruitment of an Irish Language Officer is the main recommendation made in an application for funding which was submitted to The Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs under the scheme Scéim Tionscnamh Pleanála Teanga. The committee is awaiting a decision on same.

The study 'Staidéar Cuimsitheach Teangeolaíoch ar Úsáid na Gaeilge sa Ghaeltacht – A Comprehensive Linguistic Study on the use of Irish in the Gaeltacht' illustrates the challenge facing communities and state agencies operating in Gaeltacht areas to preserve the Irish language, in light of the evidence of its decline as a community language. In February a public information meeting was organised in the Seanscoil where communities throughout Mayo had an opportunity to discuss various aspects of the study with its authors who explained the methodology used and the results obtained.

Among the target groups catered for by the comharchumann are pre-school and primary school children. Naíonra Dhún Chaocháin in Ceathrú Thaidhg and Naíonra Ghleann na Muaidhe in Glenamoy are both community run Irish pre-school services which provide for the needs of children and their parents in these areas. Eighteen primary school children are currently availing of Seirbhís Iar-scoile Dún Chaocháin (After school service) which offers a wide variety of extra curricular activities which are both enjoyable and challenging. These childcare projects currently receive funding from the Irish Government under the National Development Plan 2007 - 2013 through The National Childcare Investment Programme 2006-2010. The Health Services Executive and Comhar Naíonraí na Gaeltachta Teo also provide funding for the naíonraí.

In July Irish Summer Camps, which offer recreational, educational and cultural activities for local children, were organised in four centres throughout the parish in conjunction with Coiste Campaí Samhraidh Iorrais with the assistance of funding received from Scéim na gCampaí Samhraidh d'Aos Óg na Gaeltachta.

A schools poster competition was organised in the five primary schools in the parish in May. Based on the theme 'Mo Bhaile Féin' pupils were asked to design an A3 poster which illustrated an aspect of their village. 156 pupils took part in the competition from junior infants up to sixth class. The committee would like to thank the teachers and pupils who participated, the adjudicator Mary Healy Carter, John Monaghan who photographed the posters for publication and Údarás na Gaeltachta who part-sponsored the prize fund.

Other youth-related activities which were organised include table quizzes, traditional dancing workshops, a photographic competition and youth discos.

Lifelong learning and the acquisition of new skills is an ongoing process. A number of training courses were organised during the year including The Primary Course in Food Hygiene in conjunction with Meitheal Forbartha na Gaeltachta Teo and certified by the Environmental Health Officers' Association ; First Aid in conjunction with the Civil Defence ; An arts, crafts and textiles course funded by Mayo Vocational Education Committee ; Pre-School Inservice Training in conjunction with Forbairt Naíonraí Teo and Teastas Eorpach na Gaeilge in conjunction with The Languages Centre National University of Ireland Maynooth and part-funded by Údarás na Gaeltachta.

In 2007 Mayo County Development Board recommended a three-year strategy to make Mayo the walking capital of Ireland, and in the intervening period various projects have been developed throughout the county. Joining this network are the Ceathrú Thaidhg loop walks, a series of three circular walks of varying length known as Lúb na Trá, Lúb Chlann Lir and Lúb an Chlaí Dhuibh. Starting and finishing at the

Seanscoil community centre, each loop is waymarked and colour-coded according to its level of difficulty. A bi-lingual information board and brochure provide details on trail directions and points of interest en route. This project was undertaken by Comhar Dún Chaocháin Teo with the financial support of Fáilte Ireland and the input of agencies such as Mayo County Development Board, The Department of Community, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs, Cill Chomáin Rural Social Scheme and local farmers and landowners.

Guided walks were organised in June as part of the Mayo in Motion Initiative (in conjunction with Mayo Sports Partnership), on National Trails Day in September (a venture involving Fáilte Ireland, Coillte, Comhairle na Tuaithe, the National Trails Office and the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs) and on World Heart Day in October (in conjunction with The Irish Heart Foundation).

Na Comhluadair Bheo is a self-help initiative towards the economic and cultural revitalisation of the area. Its aim is to raise the profile of the area as a tourism product or destination particularly among European countries such as France and Germany. To achieve this a new website has been designed which can be viewed at www.gaeltacht.info.

An archaeological survey of the parish commenced during the summer. Diana Taylor, a participant on the Community Employment Scheme, is undertaking the project and already she has discovered a number of interesting sites including possible megalithic tombs. It is intended to publish the findings of the survey at a future date.

Two groups of American students from the School for International Training Dublin, accompanied by academic director Aeveen Kerrisk, visited the parish in February and again in September as part of their academic studies in Ireland. The students, who are undergraduates from a variety of universities in the United States, met with various individuals who are involved in community and environmental development within the parish.

In June a group of over forty experts from various European countries and Canada visited Ceathrú Thaidhg as part of an International Conference on Peatlands. Accompanied by Denis Strong from The National Parks and Wildlife Service, as well as local guides, the group was brought on a tour of the area.

The comharchumann's environmental enhancement plan forms part of the Rural Social Scheme's programme of work in the parish. Some of the works carried out over the past year include refuse collection at local beaches, graveyards and in Ceathrú Thaidhg village, the erection of a stone wall at the Caochán sculpture, the development of picnic areas at the Caochán sculpture and at Céibh a' Chalaidh in Ros Dumhach, the development of a parking area adjacent to the Seanscoil and improvement works to the holy well at Céibh a' Chalaidh. An application was submitted to the National Tidy Towns competition for the village of Ceathrú Thaidhg and it is hoped to implement some of the adjudicators' recommendations in 2009.

Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government John Gormley announced the 2008 Green Coast Awards in June. Five Mayo beaches were recognised, not only for their cleanliness but also for the management of their pristine coastal assets. Among those bestowed with this new national award was Port a' Chlóidh. This beautiful beach met EU guideline water quality and it is proposed to implement a beach management plan to help protect its beauty and enhance safety. Enhancement works are currently been carried out under the Rural Social Scheme.

In April the comharchumann, in conjunction with Comhar Iorrais Leader Teo, organised a day trip to visit Westport country market and various organic producers in the county. The study trip, which was part-funded by Údarás na Gaeltachta under the Cairdeas scheme, presented an opportunity to speak to existing producers and to learn firsthand about their experiences.

Saturday August 9th marked the official launch of Margadh Feirmeoirí Iorrais, Erris Farmers Market in Belmullet town. A growing awareness among consumers in relation to food quality, origin, distance travelled and seasonality has been the basis for this exciting new venture. The farmers market provides a forum for local producers to develop new food initiatives and offers consumers the opportunity to savour the taste and freshness of food produced within the Erris area including vegetables, free range hen and duck eggs, home baking, fish, herbs & small plants, seaweed products and prepared dishes.

The committee would like to thank the following agencies for their assistance in 2008 and looks forward to their continued co-operation in 2009:- The Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, Mayo County Council, Údarás na Gaeltachta, Mayo Sports Partnership, The Irish Heart Foundation, The Department of Health and

Children, Forbairt Naíonraí Teo, Comhar Naíonraí na Gaeltachta Teo, The Health Services Executive, Comhar Iorrais Leader, Mayo County Development Board, Teagasc, County Mayo Childcare Committee, Fáilte Ireland, An Taisce, Glór na nGael, Óige na Gaeltachta Teo, Mayo VEC, FÁS, The National Parks and Wildlife Service, The North Western Regional Fisheries Board, Sustainable Tourism Ireland, Teagasc, Mayo Energy Agency, The Languages Centre National University of Ireland Maynooth, The Placename Commission and The Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

AN SCÉIM SHÓISIALTA TUAITHE / THE RURAL SOCIAL SCHEME

Tá Scéim Shóisialta Tuaithe Chill Chomáin ag leanacht ar aghaidh leis an bplean oibre timpeallachta. Faoi láthair tá rannphairtithe na scéime ag tógáil balla cloch ag ionad pobail an Inbhir, ag bailiú bruscair agus ag obair ar an ngairdín ag Teach a' Phobail Cheathrú Thaidhg, i mbun oibreacha timpeallachta i mbaile Ghreanaí agus ag tógáil balla cosanta ag trá Phort a' Chlóidh. Tá eolas breise le fáil ó Phádraig Ó Dochartaigh (saoiste na scéime) ar 087 9785035.

The Cill Chomáin Rural Social Scheme is continuing to implement its environmental enhancement workplan. Presently participants on the scheme are enhancing a stone wall at the community centre in Inbhear, collecting refuse and undertaking work in the garden of Ceathrú Thaidhg church, carrying out enhancement works in Greanaí village and building a protective wall at Port a' Chlóidh beach. Further information is available from Pádraig Ó Dochartaigh (local supervisor) on 087 9785035.

CÚRSAÍ OILIÚNA / TRAINING COURSES

Teastas Treoraíochta Mara & Tuaithe / Marine & Countryside Guide Certificate

Ag brath ar éileamh tá sé i gceist cúrsa treoraíochta mara agus tuaithe, atá deimhnithe ag Fáilte Éire, a eagrú i gceantar Iorrais a bhéas ag rith idir Eanáir agus Iúil 2009. An bhfuil tú ag obair san earnáil turasóireachta, an maith leat a bheith amuigh faoin spéir agus ag casadh le daoine? Más maith déan teagmháil le Treasa ag 097 88082 le haghaidh breis eolais.

Depending on sufficient demand it is proposed to organise a Fáilte Ireland certified Marine & Countryside Guiding Course in the Erris area which will run from January to July 2009. Do you work in the tourism industry, do you enjoy the outdoors and meeting people? If the answer is yes please contact Treasa on 097 88082 for further details.

Teastas Eorpach na Gaeilge / European Certificate in Irish

Beidh an dara théarma de Theastas Eorpach na Gaeilge ag tosnú in Ionad Seirbhísí Teanga na Seanscoile ar an Mháirt, an 13ú Eanáir (Grúpa A1) agus Deardaoin an 15ú Eanáir (Grúpa B1) ag a 7.00 i.n.

The second term of the European Certificate in Irish will commence in the Seanscoil Language Centre on Tuesday 13th January (Group A1) and Thursday 15th January (Group B1) at 7.00 p.m.

Grúpa A1 de Theastas Eorpach na Gaeilge

SCÉALTA EILE / OTHER NEWS

Droichead Phort a' Chlóidh / Bridge Repairs

I mí Meán Fómhair cuireadh aighneacht chuig Chomhairle Chondae Mhaigh Eo mar gheall ar an ndroch-chuma a bhí ar bhunchloch an droichid agus rinneadh obair dheasúcháin air i mí Dheireadh Fómhair.

Following representations from the committee to Mayo County Council in September in relation to the damaged state of the foundation of the bridge at Port a' Chlóidh repair works were carried out in October.

Teampall Chill a' Ghallagáin / Graveyard Publication

Rinneadh suirbhé ar Theampall Chill a' Ghallagáin i mí na Samhna chun na huaigheanna uilig a mharcáil ar phlean agus stair na reilige a bhreacadh síos. Tá sé beartaithe ag an gcoiste an t-eolas a fhoilsiú i bhfoirm leabhair agus chuige sin cuireadh iarratas ar pháirt-airgeadú chuig An Chomhairle Oidhreachta faoi Scéim na bhFoilseachán 2009. Má tá grianghraif agat de do mhuintir atá curtha sa teampall, ar mhaith leat iad a bheith sa bhfoilseachán déan teagmháil le Treasa led' thoil ag 097 88082 nó 087 1251642.

A survey was carried out on the graveyard at Cill a' Ghallagáin in November to plot all the graves on a plan and to compile the history of the graveyard. The committee intends to publish this material in book form and an application for funding was submitted to The Heritage Council's Publication Grant Scheme 2009. If you have photographs of deceased relatives who are buried in the graveyard, and would like to have them included in the publication please contact Treasa on 097 88082 or 087 1251642.

Leabhair Nua / New Books

Is leabhar álainn tarraingteach do pháistí (8+) **Bó agus Micilín** le Helen Ó Catháin agus Olivia Golden atá foilsithe ag Cló Mhaigh Eo (094 9371744).

Is leabhar seanchas **Ó Bharr Thrámh go Baile Ghib** le Tomás Ó Munghaile (a fuair bás roimh an Nollaig, go ndéana Dia trócaire ar a anam dílis). Rugadh Tomás i mBarr Thrámh i 1918 agus i 1937 d'aistrigh a mhuintir go Baile Ghib i gCondae na Mí. Déantar cur síos ar stair an phobail nach gcloistear ach go hannamh. Foilsithe ag Coiscéim agus le fáil ó ÁIS (01 6626259)

Bó agus Micilín *by Helen Ó Catháin and Olivia Golden is a very attractive book for children aged 8+ which is published by Cló Mhaigh Eo (094 9371744).*

Ó Bharr Thrámh go Baile Ghib *by Tomás Ó Munghaile (who passed away in December RIP) is a storyteller's treasure. Tomás was born in Barr Thrámh in 1918 and his family moved to Baile Ghib in County Meath in 1937. This book describes the history and traditions of a community. Published by Coiscéim and available from ÁIS (01 6626259)*

Foinsí Maoinithe / Sources of Funding

Is acmhainn áisiúil é an lámhleabar The Irish Fundraising Handbook (6ú eagrán) i gcomhthéacs cúrsaí eacnamaíochta faoi láthair. Tá liosta ann de na heagraisí agus foinsí maoinithe atá le fáil ag grúpaí deonacha neamh-brabaigh agus is féidir cóip a ordú ó Create, 10/11 Sráid an Iarla Dheas, Baile Átha Cliath 8 ar chostas €23 (postas san áireamh). Guthán: 01 4736600

The Irish Fundraising Handbook (6th Edition) is a useful resource in the current economic climate. It lists a range of funding and supports available for voluntary non-profit groups and is available from Create, 10/11 Earl Street South, Dublin 8 at a cost of €23 (including postage). Tel: 01 4736600