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The views expressed in this Newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views of Galway City Community Forum or the Community & Enterprise Department of Galway City Council.

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Galway Volunteer Centre Opens

The latest addition to Galway's community infrastructure has opened for business in the Westside Resource Centre. Galway Volunteer Centre is a one-stop shop for voluntary activity, providing volunteering opportunities for the public, and sourcing much needed volunteers for organisations.

Donncha Foley, the Galway Volunteer Centre development officer believes that the Galway Volunteer Centre will of great use to community and voluntary organisations in the city. "Organisations can advertise their vacancies with us, and we will provide advice and support to groups who are working or want to work with volunteers."

The centre is the fulfilment of the hard work of volunteers and voluntary organisations working with Galway City and County Councils. "A number of people recognised that as Galway has grown it has become more difficult for organisations to recruit volunteers," said Donncha. "Funding was sourced from the Department of Community Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs through both Councils, and we have just opened our office in the Westside Resource Centre."

According to Donncha, there are a lot of people out there who want to give of their free time, but are not sure how to go about it. "We also know that many groups could do a lot more good work if they had more

people on board. The Galway Volunteer Centre aims to bridge that gap, so that everyone can benefit."

At present the GVC is meeting with organisations interested in using the service. If you would like to find out more and would like to meet with the GVC, you can contact Donncha on 087 1353546, or email: info@volunteergalway.ie. You can also check out the website at www.volunteergalway.ie

The Galway Volunteer Centre is part of a growing national network of centres, is run by a voluntary Board of Directors and serves both Galway City and County.

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Age Action in New Premises

By Carmel Sheridan

The new office in the Small Crane Square of Sea ROAD will be officially opened by Frank Fahey on October 2nd at 3pm. Mick Crehan from the Crane Bar has kindly offered to attend with his whistle! Positive Ageing Week will be launched in Galway City Library on September 27th at 2pm. Both the city and county Mayors will officiate.



Club Profile:

Árus na nGael

By Brian McNamara

Tá beár /club Árus na nGael suite lastiar den árus ar Shráid Doimnic a bhí i seilbh muintir na Bantiarna Greagóir (Lady Gregory) tráth. Bhí sise ar cheann de phríomhphearsana náisiúnachas cultúrtha na 19ú haoise déanaí, as ar shíolraigh Athbheochan na Gaeilge. D'oscail an t-ionad fiche bliain ó shin agus arcrochadh timpeall na mballaí feictear pictiúir agus póstaeir frámaithe d'ealaíona na Gaeilge; drámaí, imeachtaí, féilte, ceoltóirí, damhsóirí agus scríbhneoirí. Is áit theasa agus teolaí é, le tine curtha síos sa tinteán ar feadh an Gheimhridh. Má bhíonn oíche antláis ag teastáil nó deoch le comhrá ciúin, is é seo an t-ionad. Tá ceann de na hurláir damhsa is fearr i nGaillimh sa seomra lena thaobh.

Bíonn rangannaí Gaeilge a bhíonn ar siúl thuas staighre le gach leibhéal san áireamh: Glan tosaitheoirí-ard leibhéal. Tá an rang do ghiantosaitheoirí oiriúnach duit murar fhoghlaim tú an Ghaeilge riamh. Thosaigh go leor daoine ó thíortha eile ag foghlaim na Gaeilge sa rang seo agus lean siad ar aghaidh go leibhéal níos airde. Nuair a bhíonn an téarma ranganna ar siúl bíonn oíche na bhfoghlaiméoirí ar siúl sa chlub. Tá seo le haghaidh foghlaiméoirí na Gaeilge i gCathair na Gaillimhe a bheas ag iarraidh deis chun an Ghaeilge a labhairt go rialta in atmasféar taitneamhach neamhfhoirmeálta. Ar feadh na bliana, bíonn go leor imeachtaí ar siúl le haghaidh lucht foghlama agus labhartha na Gaeilge, mar shampla, tráth na gceist. Bíonn an Club leabhar ar siúl gach mí, ag bualadh le chéile chun leabhair as Gaeilge a phlé.

Cuirtear an cúlútr tradisiúnta Gaelach in iúil ar mhórán slite, trí damhsa agus ceol freisin; bíonn neart stíleana fós ag athcruthaigh agus foirmeacha nua ag éirí as. Is seanstíl rince Ghaelach atá i gceist leis an damhsa ar an sean-nós, coitianta go háirithe i gConamara. Is damhsa indibhidiúil é, á léiriú trí shraith céimeanna ag cur in iúl le na cosa. Bíonn ranganna damhsa ar an sean-nós, tosaitheoirí agus feabhsóirí, ar siúl go minic sa Chlub.

Bíonn fáilte ar gach stíl damhsa ar an Oíche Dé hAoine i gClub Oa2,



lonnaithe san Árus na nGael ar feadh ceithre bliain anois. Tá Gaillimh athshondach le cheoil agus rathaíonn Oa2 ar na teicneolaíoch nua meáscan den ceoil agus damhsa a bhíonn ag teacht amach as na cultúirí difriúla. Ach, má bhíonn ceol traidisiúnta Ghaelach ar thóir, bíonn seisiún ceol traidisiúnta den scoth ar siúl gach Oíche Shathairn. Is seisiún oscailte é seo, agus fáilte roimh ceoltóirí, éisteoirí agus damhsóirí.

The Árus na nGael bar/club is situated behind the house on Dominic Street that once belonged to Lady Gregory, one of the key figures of the late 19th Century cultural nationalism which gave rise to the Gaelic Revival. The venue opened twenty years ago and the framed posters and photographs around the walls are of the Irish language arts; plays, festivals, musicians, dancers and writers. It's a cosy spot with a fire lit throughout the winter. If a night of revellery and merrymaking is required, or just a quiet drink and conversation, this is the place. The adjoining room has one of the best dancefloors in Galway.

Irish classes take place upstairs and caters for all levels from beginners to higher levels. The absolute beginners class is suitable if you have never learnt Irish before. Many people from other countries have begun learning Irish in this class and then progressed on to other levels. When the term of

classes is on, there is a facilitated learners night in the club. This gives learners of Irish in Galway the opportunity to meet with other learners and speak Irish in an informal and relaxed atmosphere. Throughout the year there are many events such as table quizzes for learners and speakers of Irish. The book club meets monthly to discuss and review an Irish language book.

Traditional Gaelic culture has many expressions through dance and music; many of these traditional styles are still evolving and new forms emerging. Sean-nós dancing is an old style of Gaelic dancing particularly popular in the Connemara area. It is an individualistic form of dance that is performed through a series of steps expressing the rhythm through the feet. Sean-nós dancing classes for beginners and improvers, take place regularly at Árus na nGael.

All forms of dance are welcome on a Friday night, where Club Oa2 is now into its fourth year of residency in Árus na nGael. Galway resonates with music and Oa2 continues to thrive on the emerging new technological mixtures of music and dance forms of different cultures. If its traditional Irish music you are after, Saturday night in Árus na nGael holds some of the best sessions in town, with an open welcome to musicians, listeners and dancers.



Disability Summer School 2006

The Law Faculty at NUI Galway recently hosted an innovative Summer School on Disability Law which was funded by the European Commission for the second year running. It is the only one of its kind in Europe and attracted participants from all corners of Europe and North America.

The Director of the programme, Professor Gerard Quinn said "we were especially delighted to welcome a representative of the Prime Minister's Office in Namibia which is taking active measures to advance the African decade of people with Disabilities. The School has helped establish our reputation at NUI Galway as one of the premiere sites in Europe for disability legal research. We hope to make this an annual fixture subject to future EU funding. The subject is only likely to grow in importance with the advent of the draft UN disability treaty which should be adopted later this year in New York. We were delighted to welcome local political representatives including Deputy Mayor Colette Connolly and Cllr Fidelma Healy-Eames. It was also a privilege to have Marian Harkin, MEP and TD, in attendance at the Summer School."

The Summer School featured key litigators who regularly appear for persons with disabilities before the European Court of Justice (Luxembourg), the European Court of Human Rights (Strasbourg), US Supreme Court, the Canadian Supreme Court, the House of Lords and the Irish courts.

The First Green Mayor of Galway a Friend of the Forum

By Sandra Bunting



Niall O'Brolchain

A focus on green issues is to the forefront in Galway at the moment as the city experiences its first Green Party mayor. Since taking up the post in the summer, Niall O'Brolchain has been working non-stop on changes to make Galway more tolerant and peaceful, energy efficient with a better transportation system.

Galway has recently joined 'Cities Against Racism'. Mayor O'Brolchain says Galway has taken a lead in this area and is working hard to prevent racism here of any kind. Not afraid of controversy, the Mayor launched the Gay Pride Festival at the end of August as he believes it is right to support minorities. However, he would not launch the Salthill Air Show earlier this year because of his stance against war planes. "It is the duty of the mayor to represent the citizens of the city. I believe that it is a majority view in the city. (not to support war planes)."

Energy Conservation is another issue the mayor feels strongly about, aiming for the city to be a symbol of fuel and energy efficiency. City Council vehicles are now running on 5 per cent bio-fuel and heating at city hall and street lighting are being looked at to see if they can be more energy efficient while at the same time more cost effective. With these measures in place, Galway will consider applying for the European Energy Awards.

O'Brolchain was well-prepared and had done a lot of ground work before becoming mayor. As head of the Green Party, he was elected city councillor in the last civic election and had served on the Galway City Community Forum and on the Galway Environmental Alliance. As Mayor, besides representing the people of Galway, his other priorities are transport, roads and traffic. He has been in consultation with the city manager and there are announcements pending. Parks are

another issue he feels needs attention. "They have not been properly developed," he said. Litter is also a problem although he says it is improving. The Galway Market has a special place in his heart and he would like to see hours of trading expanded.

There are highlights of being mayor on the one hand and on the other, things that take getting used to. With his heavy schedule, it is difficult for his family and for work as all other duties have to be put aside. His first few months have been non-stop. He has been on the go all the time. However, he finds it very interesting. "It is an honour to represent the city," he said.

One of his most enjoyable tasks as mayor is attending community events and meeting people who are doing voluntary or community work. "Going where people are not often recognised for the work they do is a real highlight." Those people include carers for the handicapped, the homeless and others. He also enjoyed the Westside Youth Festival, commenting that he thought it was magnificent. The Arts Festival and Project 06 were also a high spot so far. Stating that he thought both festivals worked well together, he said he just loved things on the street and mentioned the art exhibit along the river as well as a number of other outdoor events.

Not a stranger to the Galway City Community Forum, Niall O'Brolchain was a member since its inception as representative of the Galway Environmental Alliance and therefore qualified to criticise the group. "The Forum hasn't lived up to its potential," he said. "It needs more focus and to take more practical initiatives." The Mayor said plans are made in the forum but are not carried out. He suggested that one or two things should be concentrated on each year and that applying for and setting up a community radio station in the city would be a worthwhile project. Praising the Forum for its facilitating networking within the voluntary sector, he hinted that it should do more as a group, rather than the initiative taken by individuals.

The perception of the Green Party has changed in Galway. The new mayor says he has nothing against tree-huggers but that is not only what the party is about. "We're going from strength to strength. Galway has the second biggest Green presence in the country. There is huge energy and more and more people getting involved." O'Brolchain added that the party is about a sustainable living, lifestyle and economy with a clear and genuine agenda.

ALâ Theatre By Jim Aherne

In the coming months, ALâ in conjunction with Crocket House, Newbridge, Kildare will be running a course for community activists in the use of drama as a development tool. Preference will be given to voluntary workers but a limited number of places will be available to professionals.

If you are interested or know others who may be interested in either of the above please contact ALâ 0868461270.

What is ALâ:

ALâ in conjunction with existing community groups promotes the development of theatre within communities.

ALâ promotes personal, social and community development.

ALâ promotes equal opportunities and participation for all especially the active inclusion of marginalized people, excluded groups and people of all abilities.

ALâ use a combination of drama, music and other art forms as tools in achieving these objectives.

ActOut Community Theatre Project

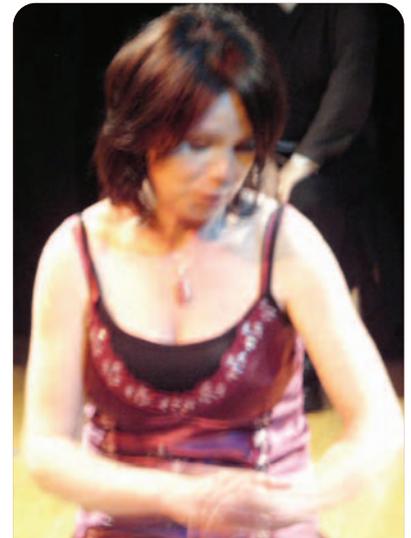
ALâ run workshops each Wednesday in the Ballybane Community Resource Centre, (behind the Ballybane Church). During the year participants, who may have little or no experience in theatre and the arts, develop

their skills in performance through exercises, improvisations and various themes.

ALâ use improvisation and employ theatre games to let people explore their spontaneity and expressiveness in an accepting and supportive environment. Discovery, experience, and creative expression is heightened when a person faces a reality, sees it, explores it and acts accordingly.

More than ever community is the basis of ALâ's work, searching for stories and issues that can be exposed on stage -stories that talk about daily life and are told directly by the participants.

ALâ are hoping that people of all abilities, nationalities and ethnic groups will get involved in preparations for a new play. Participation is open to all but with a priority to people living in what are regarded as disadvantaged communities. Adults from over 17 and under 140 years are eligible. No drama experience is needed. There are no auditions and those who come will get the opportunity to be involved in the play. Those interested in stage craft rather than acting are encouraged to help in developing the play. Again phone 0868461270 for more information.



“ALâ are hoping that people of all abilities, nationalities and ethnic groups will get involved in preparations for a new play.”

Programme of Grants for Locally-Based Community and Voluntary Organisations

The Programme offers three schemes of once-off grants to local community and voluntary organisations for:

- REFURBISHMENT of PREMISES
- EQUIPMENT
- EDUCATION, TRAINING and RESEARCH

Grants will be made to a range of local voluntary and community organisations/groups with a focus on addressing disadvantage in their communities.

Application forms and further information are available from the Department's website www.pobail.ie or from:

Community and Voluntary Supports Division,
Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs,
Teeling Street,
Tunbbercurry,
Co. Sligo
Telephone (071) 9186759/ 9186761/
9186762/ 9186763

‘Go Wild in the City’

**Biodiversity Week and Galway Learning Week
October 15th - 22nd 2006**

Keep your diary open for a hectic seven days in October when Galway Learning Week and Biodiversity Week run simultaneously.

‘Go Wild in the City’ will not involve the type of shenanigans as seen on the streets of Galway during Race Week. Rather it will be a celebration of the diverse areas of natural beauty to be enjoyed right here on your very own doorstep.

Although the programme has not been finalised as yet, it will involve an innovative ‘Walk on the Wild Side’, a guided walk from Claddagh Hall to the Salthill Promenade. Other activities include tours of the cities’ waterways, a walk in the woods as well as public lectures on a variety of related to biodiversity issues in Galway. All events will be held by experts in the field. Keep an eye out for the brochures!



Poetry Corner



CROW PLANTATION
By Stephen Shields

In winter,
it was
the remorseless,
awkward flights
from
the loose knit
of branches
aroused him.
Their black presence
swayed over
a feral plantation

A civic effort
at landscaping:
pathways, seats
founded
on a storm.
Hulks of trees
dragged the earth.
Chickweed, nettles,
gorged bindweed
festered there.

At an open window
he crawled
to the ledge,
from his sudden
dark mind
loomed
to a brute penthouse
rasped
a terrible triumph.

The Friendship Club



The Friendship Club performing in the city, 'SNAKE: The Peace Dance'.

In the magical summer that has just been, as the city reverberated in the euphoric celebration that exuded from its every pore during the unique atmosphere created by the simultaneously-run Project06 and Arts Festivals, one of Galway's best kept secrets emerged quietly from the shadows and into the spotlight. In celebrating Galway's multicultural dimension, children of the Friendship Club twice performed their low-key, non-amplified, yet nevertheless breathtaking for both its colour and simplicity, and free show in Eyre Square. Mega light years from the hi-tech glamour and glitz of international superstars also performing in the city, 'SNAKE: The Peace Dance', which was listed on the official Project06 programme, was a musical and multilingual extravaganza performed by primary school children of some of the diverse cultural backgrounds that now make up modern-day Galway.

The Friendship Club, a purely voluntary organisation that has been running for the past six years, was originally founded by Gort-based Kilkenny woman, Heather Smith, primarily for the purpose of welcoming those people of different ethnic backgrounds who were then starting to enter the area. The club, which prides itself on being a non-religious all-inclusive body, has ever since been holding a weekly drop-in centre in the Methodist Presbyterian church in Victoria Place. Each Wednesday afternoon, between three and five pm, people, mainly mothers and children of all ages, of various local and ethnic backgrounds assemble in the relaxed and cosy atmosphere to share tea and chat as well as availing of some of the practical resources provided by the club.

Heather, who is fondly known to one and all at the club as 'Mama', explains its origins: "When the club started it was for education and integration and friendship. Education both ways. It's very much a two-way thing." She continues: "All we had to offer was friendship, and all people want is a handshake. They want a Hello and a How are you and The baby's lovely. Come in. You're welcome." As well as supplying a large range of books and toys to entertain the children each child's birthday is also

celebrated: "Every child is entitled to a birthday. We give them a cake, candles and a small present. Sometimes my presents aren't new but they are appreciated nonetheless. And we have Santa every Christmas, and we have an Easter Bunny."

The club also offers a wide range of other practical resources. Through the years it has provided support in the forms of language classes, children's study groups, health education, childcare courses, anti-racism seminars and social outings, in addition to occasionally supplying members with tickets for common interest social events that may well have otherwise passed the communities by unnoticed. Heather also notes that both "a lot of counselling" and practical networking has taken place within the club on a one-to-one basis. It has been at times of personal tragedy, however, that the Friendship Club really comes to fore in assisting and supporting those most alienated amongst our society.

As the city has by now begun to mature somewhat in its multicultural capacity, with individual communities continuing to develop for themselves, the role of the Friendship Club is starting to change. In Heather's estimation "thousands" have by now passed through the club: "In a way it's like a school or a nursery. They pass through and they go on. But everybody calls back from time to time, especially around Christmas." A new generation of children has grown up within the protective bosom of the club, and now she feels the time is now ripe for it to become more actively involved in the arts.

'SNAKE: The Peace Dance', which received welcome sponsorship from the Galway City Partnership, was facilitated by local-based Italian artist and long-time volunteer of the Friendship Club, Marlene Morvillo. The show included performers from ten countries spread across three continents. Plans are already afoot to re-enact the snake in a bigger and more spectacular show next year, should the platform still exist to do so. New members are always welcome at the Friendship Club, either Irish or non-natives who are now living in the area.

MA in Community Development at NUI, Galway

By Dr. Brian McGrath

Community Development has quite a long history in Ireland and its evolution over time has seen it emerge as a mainstream activity in tackling contemporary socio-economic problems. In this context, a critical role in community development is played by professional community development workers who mobilise and support communities in the development and implementation of local projects. The job of the professional community development worker is both stimulating and challenging and requires a range of skills and techniques.

The Department of Political Science and Sociology at NUI Galway offers a postgraduate training course in community development through its MA Programme in Community Development. The MA Programme, which is two years full-time in duration, offers a vocational postgraduate qualification in Community Development. Commencing in 1989, the first cohort of students graduated in 1991 and since this period, approximately 180 students in total have graduated from the Programme.

Programme aims and objectives
The aim of the Programme is to educate and train effective development agents, who, with an applied and academic development expertise, can make a direct contribution to affecting change through the community development process. The Programme aims to impart a specialist knowledge of the practical, organisational, managerial and developmental skills required for the practice of community work and to increase analytical and evaluative understandings of the policy contexts within which community development practice takes place. The Programme provides an understanding of the working principles and methods that underpin professional community work practice.

The Learning Objectives of the Programme are:

to provide an understanding of the diverse working principles and methods that underpin professional community

work practice; to develop the analytical and evaluative understandings of the service/policy contexts within which community development practice takes place; to improve students' ability to analyse the social and political contexts within which community development practice takes place; to develop participants' problem solving skills which includes: the ability to define needs and concerns; gather relevant information; analyse and assess situations; develop appropriate strategies; work with groups/individuals in implementing strategies; evaluate results and document the development process; to facilitate the participants' interpersonal development through communication skills, ability to focus, probe, support others, confront difficult situations.

These Learning Objectives have influenced the design of the Programme which includes inter-university linkages (with Wageningen University, the Netherlands) and inter-institutional and community links with development organisations locally, nationally and internationally. The Learning Objectives are based on the recognition that students' learning develops on the basis of literature based theories, field experience/practice, exposure to diverse courses with a development focus, working with others and reflecting on how theory and practice can be integrated.

Course tuition is conducted on the basis of lectures, seminars, workshops, group presentations and discussions, supervised research projects and study visits. Experienced development practitioners also contribute to the Programme in the form of practical information sessions and development case-study reviews. Approximately 12 students are enrolled each year and are recruited by means of a written application and short interview. Students are required to hold a primary honours degree in a social science subject.

The Programme is structured as follows:

The first Semester (September to December) involves course work at NUI Galway in the following modules: Theory and Practice of Community Development, Social Policy, Group Work, Introduction to Business, Techniques of Policy Research and Analysis. Semester 2 (January to April) continues course work at Wageningen University, the Netherlands with a broad range of modules in development studies. Semester 3 of Year 2 (September to December) entails a full time placement with a development agency selected by the student. Semester 4 (January to May) provides course work at NUI Galway, with further modules in social policy, group work, local government, issues in community development practice and the thesis research seminar. A minor dissertation is also completed in this period.

Based on annual returns to the graduate office at NUI Galway, job progression appears quite strong from the programme, with graduates finding employment in a diverse range of settings, which indicates the programme satisfies the demand not only for community workers, but also social service and local development jobs. The main careers among graduates are as: programme/project coordinators and managers with Community Development Projects and Partnership Companies; Community and Enterprise Development Officers with the Development Board structures; Youth Development Officers; Adolescent/Family support workers; Policy Researchers, Evaluators and Analysts; Overseas Development Workers; and Community Education Officers, among others.

The Programme Director is Dr. Brian McGrath and the Academic Director and Head of Department is Prof Chris Curtin.

Interview:

Creating on Walls:

Interview with Galway Graffiti Artist Finbar McHugh

How did you get into graffiti?

Well, I always liked drawing and in Transition Year I got to try a project in Terryland Stadium with a few guys in school that did graffiti. After that, I was addicted!

What pieces are you most proud of?

The dragon on the back of my school. Because I've wanted to do something there for a long time. I've been in both the Jes primary and secondary schools and that's where I learned Art. There's another one in Knocknacarra of Freddie Mercury. I did it with a guy called Dyze. There were a lot of protests against it at first but after awhile it got complimented by everyone. It helped graffiti to become accepted around the area and people started to see graffiti as an art-form rather than vandalism.



Where do you do graffiti?

Wherever I feel like doing it! There are areas like Pump Lane and Father Burke Park where it is semi-legal. Other than that, I ask businesses for big walls because the Council won't give me any.

Do you have to have talent in art to be a graffiti artist?

I think it's the same as any art (anyone can do it) but you really need talent in order to get noticed. Most people just need practice. And with that, everyone develops their own style.

What are the different types of graffiti?

It starts off with tags, which is an artist's signature. Then there are one-liners, which are bubbly letters done in one line. Then come throwies and bombs, which are usually done with chrome and black and are simple letter forms done illegally. Then there's a piece (short for masterpiece). That's a full-on piece of graffiti artists spend a few hours on. Then there are scenes and productions on big walls where artists come together and work on one huge painting.

Are there any graffiti groups or organisations?

There are graffiti groups called crews. Most artists are in one or more crews. Crews usually do productions or go out painting illegally together.

Is it still considered a form of protest against the system?

Yes, in Galway anyway. Since the Council don't give walls, people paint illegally. If they gave walls, it would reduce the amount of illegal painting. It's been proven in Europe that legal graffiti areas dramatically reduce the amount of illegal graffiti.

I understand you're going to art college this year. Do you think your graffiti art will influence your projects there?

Definitely. It already does. I paint canvases using spray paint. I see things differently because of the street culture.

By Helene Lynch

COPE Sonas Center

providing an essential services to older people in Mervue



Sonas is a drop-in center for all Older People in Walter Macken Place in Mervue and the surrounding community. The service provides clients with advocacy, information and support. Sonas provides practical supports for people such as a laundry service, prescription collection, Meals on Wheels Delivery and shopping collection service. For those unable to attend the Day Center, home and hospital visits are carried out.

One of the most important roles Sonas plays is in the invaluable social contact and support services which are available to all, with such events as the Breakfast Club, the Wednesday Baking Group, Monday Art Workshops taking place each week and the Friday Afternoon Film Show taking place every second Friday. There is music every fortnight and coming very soon will be afternoon bingo. An exhibition of works of Art produced by the Artists of Sonas Monday Art Workshops will be on display in Galway City Council in the very near future.

The best way to highlight the support Sonas provides is to hear what the clients themselves had to say to an independent researcher, "It's good to know that Sonas is there and it is very necessary in a crisis", all residents and service users interviewed felt strongly that Sonas is a very valuable service.

Even those who do not call into the center emphasized the importance of the service being there, that someone was looking out for them. Sonas touches people in many ways, the laundry and visitation services are very important as is the communal facility of the venue itself which allows people to meet, exchange information, chat, get out of the house and simply - but very important - to look out for each other. Sonas creates and facilitates neighborliness and has done so in a very effective and understated way for twenty years.

Resident Association's News Fair in 'the West'

The West Residents' Association is holding a Halloween cake sale on Saturday, October 28 from 2pm to 6pm at the Jesuit Church Hall on Sea Road. There will be face-painting, raffles, wheel of fortune and other festivities. Funds will go towards the refurbishment of the area.

Send us the news from your Residents' Association.

Email: sandra.bunting@gmail.com



'The Hidden Landscape: By Geraldine Prizeman

First Forays into Mapping Nonprofit Organisations in Ireland'

The Centre for Nonprofit Management at Trinity College was established in 2000 to engage in research, education and dialogue on and about the Third Sector, nonprofit organisations and voluntary action. The Centre initiated the first national survey, or Mapping, of the Irish nonprofit sector in March 2005 and on Tuesday 20 th June 2006 the report of the initial findings entitled: "The Hidden Landscape: First Forays into Mapping Nonprofit Organisations in Ireland" was launched.

Although a central contributor to Irish social and economic life, the organisational shape of the nonprofit sector has remained largely undefined until now. There is often a failure to recognise the diversity of this sector, covering as it does, culture, recreation, social services, environment, civil rights, education, development, housing, health, philanthropy, voluntarism, professional associations, religious congregations and overseas development.

This report outlines for the first time the core values, roles, size, and geographical location of the sector organisations as well as the sector's economic contribution to the State. It also addresses the need for a representative study, highlighted in the Government White Paper, Supporting Voluntary Activity, (Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs 2000) and

earlier research into the nonprofit sector.

The White Paper (2000) laid out the main principles shaping the relationship between the State and the nonprofit sector as (1) the recognition of the nonprofit sector as a core component of a vibrant civil society; (2) the need to consult nonprofit service providers and other groups in receipt of state funding about service design and delivery; (3) the diversity and autonomy of the sector; (4) the role of the sector in contributing to policy and relevant legislation; and (5) the legal obligation that rests with the State for the delivery of services.

It is envisaged that 'The Hidden Landscape: First Forays into Mapping Nonprofit Organisations in Ireland' will inform the public debate on the ongoing development of the nonprofit sector in Ireland. Through the dissemination of key empirical data this report will allow for nonprofit issues to feature more strongly in policy and political debate. Recent developments such as the Taoiseach's Taskforce on Citizenship, the publication of the Charities Regulation Bill and the growing importance of individual philanthropy, all point to the increasing prominence of nonprofit activities in Ireland.

A separate part of the Mapping project was the development of a Directory of the Irish Nonprofit Sector. This Directory is

the most comprehensive of its kind in Ireland. It contains details of those organisations that completed the mapping questionnaire and opted to be included in the directory. In total some 3,700 nonprofit organisations are included in this Directory. Details included are name, contact details and main activities of the organisations. In addition all organisations are and classified according to an international classification system.

The Directory has a number of search options, for example, it can be searched by county and classification as well as alphabetically. There is also a direct link from the Directory to the CNM website. In the future it will be possible to download updated versions of the Directory through the internet. We hope the CNM Directory will prove a valuable resource for individual organisations as well as the sector as a whole. In addition we would like to make the directory available to those undertaking academic or personal research on the nonprofit sector.

The Directory is available in a CD-Rom version and each participating organisation has received a free copy. Organisations who did not take part in the survey can order a copy directly from the Centre. Full details are available on the

website: www.cnm.tcd.ie

Spirit of Voice 06 Festival

Hot of the heels from its Rap, African & Opera touring show at the Electric Picnic festival in September, Spirit of Voice is now finalising plans for its own 06 Galway festival this November. Once again it will present a massive collection of international singers and spoken word artists in support of the Cystic Fibrosis Association Ireland. For 5 Days and nights, Concerts featuring choirs, rappers, sean nos singers, storytellers, overtone, classical and traditional voice styles will mix it up together with vocal workshops and children's events. Venues include to date, an taibhdhearc, busker brownes, Victoria Hotel, Club de Burgos, Abbey church, Kings head. Indian singer Sheila Chandra , from Lord of the rings, plus the worlds only screaming choir, Mieskuoro Huutajat from Finland have been invited to headline a huge musical line up. Spirit of voice provides a musical platform for intercultural voice celebration and is

working towards a city of equals It is assisted by Failte Ireland and Galway county council and thanks local business for its support Now in its 3rd year, and following on from its successful DVD launch, Spiritofvoice.com will throw a party to unleash its website on September 30 at the rowing club. At which time , festival info and ticket details will be revealed

SPIRIT OF VOICE AUDITIONS

We now invite local vocalists, international singers and spoken word artists to take part in this event and will hold auditions at the Forge Studio, New Rd , Galway On Tuesday 5 sep, between 6 – 8pm.

The festival also requires volunteers to help with production and persons interested in becoming involved please call:

086 336 7129 FOR FURTHER DETAILS



Sheila Chandra



Mieskuoro Huutajat