



**INTERCULTURAL  
BBQ COMPETITION** PG.3



**DÚCHAS NA GAILLIMHE** – PG.2



**FORUM CALLS FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION  
ON NEW ARTS STRATEGY** – PG.5



**ENABLE IRELAND** – PG.6



**FOCUS ON SLI BURCA RESIDENTS  
COMMITTEE** – PG.7

# BreastCheck Screening Women in Galway

## Free Breast Screening Service for Women Aged 50-64

BreastCheck – The National Breast Screening Programme is currently inviting women aged 50-64 in Galway City and County for their free breast x-rays (mammograms).

BreastCheck provides free breast screening to women aged 50-64 on a two yearly cycle. There are approximately 14,609 eligible women aged 50-64 in County Galway and BreastCheck CEO Tony O'Brien encourages all women invited by BreastCheck to attend their appointment. BreastCheck compiles a list (register) of women aged 50-64 and advises all women in this age group to make sure their name is on the BreastCheck register by calling **Freephone 1800 45 45 55** or visiting **www.breastcheck.ie**.

The Government funded service will provide the free screening service to women in Galway from the BreastCheck Western Unit, located at the rear of the University College Hospital Galway campus, Newcastle Road and three linked mobile digital screening units. A BreastCheck x-ray is a simple procedure and the

appointment only takes about half an hour in total. The vast majority of women screened are found to be perfectly healthy with less than one per cent diagnosed with cancer.

The service is a quality assured, population based screening programme that operates using multi-disciplinary teams with specialist expertise in the areas of breast screening, cancer detection and treatment.

BreastCheck is the first national screening service provider worldwide to offer a fully digital mammography service. The decision to transfer to full digital mammography was taken following a successful pilot programme that demonstrated significant improvements in diagnostic accuracy, particularly for women with denser breast tissue.

For women with intellectual disabilities, BreastCheck has developed an illustrated information guide about breast screening to help women understand for themselves what is involved in a BreastCheck appointment. **'A Guide to Breast Screening'** also includes a **section Information for Carers, Family, Friends and Medical Guardians of Care for those who care for women**. The manual is available from BreastCheck by calling Freephone 1800 45 45 55.

## Dúchas na Gaillimhe

By Delo Collier

Founded in 1992, Dúchas na Gaillimhe – Galway Civic Trust is committed to protecting and enhancing Galway's natural and built heritage as well as improving local civic and cultural amenities for the benefit of the city's residents and visitors.

Dúchas na Gaillimhe - Galway Civic Trust is supported by Galway City Council and FÁS and relies for most of its running costs on memberships and donations. The trust adopts a hands-on approach and undertakes improvement projects that would not otherwise happen.

To date Dúchas na Gaillimhe – Galway Civic Trust has been involved in over 50 projects of varying sizes which have contributed to making Galway a more attractive place to live in and visit. These range from the installation of commemorative plaques to the enhancement of green areas to the restoration of key historic buildings. Examples of their historic building projects include the Martin Tea House Folly, the Fisheries Tower and their largest project yet – Mutton Island lighthouse and keepers cottage.

They have also been to the fore in environmental projects such as the planting and landscaping of green areas and are involved on an on-going basis in the cleaning and protection of Galway's waterways.

A number of initiatives have been broached with the coordinator of GMIT's Heritage Studies Programme with a view to forging links between the Trust and this relevant field of study. The trust recently sponsored the dissertations of two Honours Degree year students from this programme and also sponsors the GMIT Student of the Year Award for BA (Hons.) Degree in Heritage Studies.

More recently they have become involved in the presentation of cultural events. Their 2008 Heritage Week Festival was a tremendous success, with Historical Walks of the Medieval City, City Waterways Walks, a Lunch-time Recital by Mícheál Ó Súilleabháin and a performance of Celtic and Medieval Instruments in St. Nicholas' Collegiate Church being among the highlights.

Future projects include a Keyboard Conversation series at Theatre 903, GMIT from Monday 29th September at 7.30pm. The first performance in this series will be by Eamon Rabbite and Friends. Future performances include; The RIAM Singers, Hugh Tinney and the BBC Classical Star of 2007, Sophie Cashell.

It is hoped that the Trust's publication of a self guided tour of the City's Waterways will be available free of charge in the very near future.

Dúchas na Gaillimhe – Galway Civic Trust aims to inspire pride and good citizenship through carrying out visible projects of enhancement to the city.

**Contact Details: Dúchas na Gaillimhe – Galway Civic Trust, 45 Dominick Street, Galway.**

**Phone: 091 564 946**  
**Email: info@galwaycivictrust.ie**  
**Website: www.galwaycivictrust.ie**

### Dúchas na Gaillimhe

1. Celtic sounds recital at St. Nicholas' Collegiate Church 26<sup>th</sup> of Aug
2. Scene from historical walk in Galway with Peadar O'Dowd
3. Celtic & medieval instruments inside St. Nicholas' Collegiate Church
4. Simon O'Dwyer with instrument
5. Scene from lunch-time recital with Mícheál ó Súilleabháin



1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



# Successful Intercultural Barbecue Competition

Representatives from more than 25 nations participated in the first and highly successful Intercultural Barbecue Competition in Galway. The event took place on Saturday the 28th of June at the Spanish Arch, which was chosen as the venue for the event due to it's long history of welcoming people from all over the world.

Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, John Gormley, TD, and Mayor of Galway City, Cllr. Pádraig Conneely officially opened the Competition that saw this historical part of the City transformed into a vibrant and colourful festival of cooking, music, entertainment and culture.

The Competition attracted a lot of interest from the Intercultural Community in Galway and more than 25 teams competed to cook the tastiest piece of chicken or beef, according to cooking traditions from their home countries. Musical and dance performances from all over the world accompanied the efforts at the barbecues, as part of the musical part of the festival, which was co-organised with Sean Agus Nua.

A panel of judges had kindly agreed to decide the winners, among those local city Councillors, business people, artists and representatives from local government and community organisations. The scent of exotic spices from the barbecues and the inciting rhythms from drums, guitars and singing soon attracted a lot of interest from the public, who found themselves witnessing one mouth watering dish after the other being brought to the judges table.

It turned out to be a challenging task for the judges to decide on the winners. However, after careful consideration it was

decided to award Brazil with the prize for the Best Chicken Dish and Bangladesh with the prize for the Best Beef Dish, while South Africa took the prize for the Best Decorated Stand.

The Barbecue Competition was the first event to be organised by Galway City Intercultural Forum. The Intercultural Forum was established in 2007 by Galway City Community Forum and Galway City Partnership as part of *Galway City's Anti-Racism Strategy: A City of Equals*. The strategy is unique in Ireland and in Europe and has won awards from Metro Eireann Media and Multi-cultural (MAMA) and the Irish Chambers Award.

The aim of the Intercultural Forum is to act as a representative voice for the many diverse cultures now living in the city. More than 25 organisations have already joined the Intercultural Forum and the Forum welcomes new participants from all ethnic and cultural community groups and representative organisations in Galway City.

The event was very well received within the Intercultural Community and it is the ambition of the organising committee that The Intercultural Barbecue Competition is developed into becoming an annual tradition like some of the other great cultural events in Galway.

**For further information regarding the Intercultural Forum please contact:**

**Ernest Bishop,**  
Co-ordinator of Galway City Anti-Racism Strategy,  
Tel: 091 773466, E-mail: [ernest@gcp.ie](mailto:ernest@gcp.ie).

**Poul Walsh Olesen,**  
Community Forum Co-ordinator,  
Tel: 091 536844, E-mail: [communityforum@galwaycity.ie](mailto:communityforum@galwaycity.ie).



1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



6.

## INTERCULTURAL BBQ COMPETITION

1. Team from Sierra Leone
2. Filipino Team
3. Chilean Team
4. Organising Committee with Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, John Gormley, TD, Mayor of Galway City, Cllr. Pádraig Conneely, and Galway City Cllr. Niall Ó Brolcháin
5. Brazilian Team
6. Team from Bangladesh

## Waterdonkey's Heart.

By Dara Foley.

Galway has always been a breeding ground for theatre companies, with the likes of Druid and Mephisto emerging from the stables of NUIG's Masters in Drama and Theatre. Waterdonkey is the latest ensemble theatre group to be born in the City of the Tribes. For their first, post-MA production they are bringing *Heart* to the Town Hall Studio. Inspired by Edgar Allen Poe's gothic masterpiece, *The Tell-Tale Heart*, this play is about the elemental terror of the uncontrollable imagination.

On a sunny evening typical of Ireland's misplaced summer, I met with the play's director, Martin Sharry, after rehearsals. I asked him how Waterdonkey planned to adapt this short story to the stage.

'We are trying to faithfully translate the essence of this story, but we have to take into account the different language of theatre. So we have been experimenting with various theatrical exercises and reviewing what we've come up with to form the structure for this play. For instance, if you held rigidly to the text of the story, you would have the narrator admitting the murder to the audience which might work in the text but doesn't suit the

theatrical form. If you performed the text literally, you would lose that spooky sensation.'

Indeed, *Waterdonkey* enjoy experimenting to push the limits of the actors on stage and to find form and structure amidst the chaos, contrasting the hubbub with eerie silences, and generating that terror that is essential to Poe's stories.

'Yeah, this story ties-in very well with our aesthetic – the dissolution of the lines between reader, character and narrator. And that's what we're interested in from a theatrical point of view. We think that there is a dynamic beneath good art that maybe the traditional perspective in theatre misses. There is a whole repertoire of theatre standards that is just going over the same old ground.'

'So does a story written in the mid-1800s need to be put into a modern format to regain its chilling impact?'

'Well it still has an eternal truth and that's essentially what we want – how it grabs the reader. What's great about this story is that even though it is written in 1840s America it is still relevant now because it explores the dark patches of the mind and that's always going to be the same. It's also a nice coincidence that the play runs so close to Halloween.'

*Heart* runs from the 15th – 18th October in the Town Hall Studio.

# GALWAY'S 30TH YEAR IN THE SPECIAL OLYMPICS.

By Sarah Conway.

While the spectacular lights of the Beijing Olympics 2008 still rest in our minds, it is just as spectacular to learn that there are currently over 1,600 of our own athletes preparing for the Special Olympics Connacht team right here on our doorstep in Galway. This year is the 30th anniversary of Special Olympics Ireland. We are now looking forward to some fantastic celebrations commemorating 30 years of changing the lives of thousands of athletes with an intellectual disability and their volunteers alike. 'It's a big year. Athletes competing in the regional events have the chance of reaching the national games' commented Michael Gilroy, Regional Development Officer for Special Olympics Connacht.

Special Olympics Connacht caters for athletes in the counties of Galway, Mayo, Sligo, Leitrim, Westmeath, Roscommon and Longford. There are 15 sports events to run commencing next month until June 2009. Galway has the privilege of hosting eight of these events in various venues around the county from postal bowls which will be held in City Limits right here in the city centre to football in the Toghermore Centre in Tuam. Other events taking place in the county of Galway include bowling, aquatics, equestrian, basketball skills, bocce and pitch and putt. All together Special Olympics Connacht provide training and competition opportunities in 12 different sports.

The Special Olympics Connacht organisation is run by a dedicated team of more than 1,500 volunteers who do everything from coach, transport to events and mentoring the athletes with additional help from staff in the Regional Office Connacht. Much of this work is made possible through the support of their key sponsors Eircom and Accentive and various fundraising activities. 'We have about 600 volunteers from all walks of life in Galway. For example we have volunteers from the Army and other volunteers who are in Garda training', added Mr. Gilmore.

Special Olympics Connacht are currently looking for volunteers to take part in the Regional Sports Events in the Galway area for 2009. This is a wonderful opportunity to be part of a truly life-changing experience. Involvement with Special Olympics creates pride, lifelong friendships and rewards of immeasurable value. Training is

provided to all volunteers prior to events. An information session will be held Saturday the 15th of November 2008 10.30am-12.30pm in the Clybaun Hotel in Galway. Further information on volunteering, fundraising and any of the events mentioned above is available on the Special Olympics' website: [www.specialolympics.ie](http://www.specialolympics.ie) or by telephoning the Connacht Regional Office on 071 913 5451.



'Competitors 400m Walk'

## DIARY OF REGIONAL EVENTS GALWAY 2008-2009

DATE	EVENT	VENUE
13 <sup>th</sup> SAT DEC	POSTAL BOWLING	CITY LIMITS
4 <sup>th</sup> WED FEB	AQUATICS	LEISURELAND
28 <sup>th</sup> SAT FEB	BOWLING	CITY LIMITS
11 <sup>th</sup> WED MAR	EQUESTRIAN	CREAGH EQUESTRIAN CENTRE
25 <sup>th</sup> WED MAR	BASKETBALL SKILLS	MAREE COMMUNITY CENTRE
29 <sup>th</sup> WED APR	FOOTBALL	TOGHERMORE CENTRE
	BOCCE	TOGHERMORE CENTRE
10 <sup>th</sup> WED JUN	PITCH & PUTT	TOGHERMORE CENTRE

## Probation Service Seeks Community Projects.



By Margaret Prendergast - Senior Probation Officer.

The Probation Service based in Galway is currently looking for both indoor and outdoor projects for community service in Galway.

### What is Community Service?

A Judge can order a person who has been found guilty of an offence to complete community service work. The Judge requests that the Probation Service assesses the person's suitability and willingness to do unpaid work in the community.

When the Community Service Order is made, it is managed by the Probation Service. Community Service is an opportunity to pay back to the community, to repair the harm done and to learn practical work skills.

### What can Community Service offer your organisation?

Persons on Community Service orders are supervised and supported by Probation Service staff to assist with community projects. Projects include work such as: gardening and ground work, painting and decorating, removal of graffiti and individual placements such as charity shop work and similar projects.

### How can I access this service?

You can access this service by making contact directly with the Probation Service manager in Galway at 091-565375. In addition to this, an information morning will be held on the **4th of December 2008** from 11.00am to 1.00pm in the Probation Service office in Abbey Arch, 8 Upper Abbey Arch Gate Street, Galway. This information morning will explain how community service (unpaid work) as managed by the Probation Service can assist your organisation. If you or a representative from your organisation would like to come along, we will look forward to meeting you there.

# Forum Calls For Open Public Consultation On The City's New Art's Strategy

Galway City Community Forum (GCCF) has decided to submit a formal submission to Galway City Council regarding the Draft Strategic Arts Development Plan for 2008-2011. The need for and development of the submission was brought forward by the Forum's representatives on the Recreation, Amenity and Culture Strategic Policy Committee and members of the Forum. Following an initial consultation meeting a working group made up of Forum representatives and members, including individuals working in the local community arts sector, was established to examine the Draft Strategic Arts Development Plan and develop a formal submission. This group held a number of facilitated sessions from May to July and the resulting document was then approved by Galway City Community Forum in September 2008.

The submission welcomes the new Arts Development Plan with the hope that the plan can act as a vehicle for a much improved strategic development of the arts in Galway City over the coming years. However, given the extensive and ambitious list of actions and projects proposed in the Development Plan, there is a clear need for some degree of prioritisation and indication of timescale of the various initiatives.

A number of issues and concerns are raised in the submission, most importantly the need for much improved consultation and engagement with the local arts and community sector in the development and implementation of the Arts Plan. GCCF recommends that Galway City Council secure external support from experienced arts consultants to complete the development of the draft Arts Plan as a matter of urgency. The process for completing the strategy should incorporate an open public consultation process where all key partners, including GCCF and local artists and community art groups can have input into the development of the Arts Plan.

## Funding Is A Matter Of Concern

Funding for the arts in Galway City is highlighted in the submission as a matter of particular concern, including current resources allocated towards the City Council's arts office, venues and other support for local artists and groups.

There is a general need for substantially improved commitment to the Arts Office and the wider local arts sector from Galway City Council. This should include the appointment of a fully resourced Community Arts Officer to support community arts, including community groups, and residency programmes, and to co-ordinate the development of community arts in Galway City.

GCCF finds that special priority should be given to maintaining a high level of transparency and professionalism in the arts grants application procedure.

Furthermore, GCCF suggests that a new support service for local artists in Galway be developed based on the successful Artlinks initiative in the Southeast region, including a dedicated website feature. GCCF finds that special emphasis should be given to the opportunity of using community arts to celebrate the diversity of cultures now present in Galway and support integration into the local community.

GCCF also calls for action to be taken to improve the City's arts infrastructure, including arts spaces outside the city centre, as well as office and storage space. As a first step, it is recommended that an audit of all venues and arts spaces in Galway be carried out.

## The Community Forum Should Play A Key Role

It is emphasised throughout the submission that Galway City Community Forum and its members can play an important role in supporting many of the proposed initiatives and in supporting the local arts sector more generally.

A number of advisory groups and committees are mentioned in the Development Plan, including Steering Committees in relation to Public Art and Youth Art, which will be charged with the task of developing more detailed policies and strategies within those areas. It is recommended that Galway City Community Forum is represented and fully involved in the establishment of these structures.

The submission will be circulated to the City Councillors, City Hall management and the City Arts Office. For a copy of the submission please go to:

[www.galwaycityforum.ie/reports](http://www.galwaycityforum.ie/reports).



**TOP:**  
*'Eileen Gomley in Ala's Clown Showcase'*

**BOTTOM:**  
*'Marie Aherne, Marie Rose Finlan, Cabrini McDaid in Monkeys Bells and Pickled Crubeens'*



## Vodafone Passion for the World Around Us Award

Brid Ní Chonghóile, Ardfheidhmeannach Ghailimh le Gaeilge in Galway City has been awarded a Vodafone Passion for the World Around Us award for her dedication to promoting the Irish language in Galway city.

Selected from many nominations, Brid ensures a personal image to the implementation of 'Gaillimh le Gaeilge's' mission, which is the promotion of the Irish language in Galway so that the use of Irish becomes more normal in the city.

Brid's enthusiasm and energy has contributed to the achievements of 'Gaillimh le Gaeilge' in promoting Irish in the City.

Brid passionately believes in the value of the Irish language and our unique Gaeltacht heritage. Through her commitment and dedicated input she has helped ensure that Galway remains distinguishable from other Irish and European cities.

Brid has implemented a practical, modern and innovative approach to ensure that businesses in Galway city use the language

LEFT: Brid Ní Chonghóile, Ardfheidhmeannach Ghailimh le Gaeilge, has been awarded a Vodafone Passion for the World Around us award for her dedication to promoting the Irish language in Galway city. RIGHT: Minister Éamon Ó Cuív T.D., Department of Community Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs, Peter Allen, President Galway Chamber, Valerie O'Connell, Vodafone, Brid Ní Chonghóile, Gaillimh le Gaeilge, Mayor of Galway, Tom Costello at a reception hosted by the Galway Chamber and Vodafone in honour of Brid Ní Chonghóile, Winner of the Passion for the World around us Award.



and ensure the protection and promotion of Galway's cultural identity resulting in Irish being used in everyday life by locals.

Gaillimh le Gaeilge established the 'Coiste Logainmneacha/The Placenames Committee' in association with Galway City Council, which has led to all new housing developments in the city having Irish Names, resulting in Irish being visible throughout the city. They also are instrumental in organising many social events where people have a chance to socialise and speak Irish in informal and sociable surroundings.

The Passion for the World Around Us Awards are run by Vodafone in partnership with Galway Chamber and 17 other Chambers nationwide. The awards recognise and reward people and businesses who make an effort to improve their local communities and who have been successful in making a positive contribution to the world around them.

Brid received a specially-commissioned handmade award designed by Irish artist Michelle Hannan and a certificate at a ceremony held recently.

Speaking on behalf of Vodafone Valerie O'Connell said, "I'd like to pay tribute to Brid for the hard work and dedication she has put into making Galway a bilingual community. She has dedicated herself to developing the culture of Galway city and making it a more enjoyable place for locals and visitors alike. Vodafone are delighted to have the opportunity to reward those who dedicate themselves to making their community a better place in which to live."

Her remarks were echoed by Peter Allen, President of Galway Chamber; "Brid is an extremely worthy winner and we are honoured to be able to reward her with a Passion for the World Around Us Award. Her work has ensured that our culture and language are highly visible throughout our city and county. We commend Brid for all her hard work. I'd like to thank Vodafone for making this award possible and for their help and assistance in organising the awards," he concluded.

The Mayor of Galway, Councillor Tom Costello also spoke at the presentation and congratulated Brid on her achievements and work in promoting the city as the bilingual Capital of Ireland. "Your style and approach in selling the Irish Language to the people of Galway is unique, positive and friendly. This has helped to change 'old attitudes' towards the language of it being dull and compulsory. You have also raised the Irish Language profile in the city and have made people more aware of it. I wish you and your colleagues continued success in the future".

# [ POETRY CORNER ]

## BLOWING BUBBLES

by Anne Mc Manus

Your gentle breath creates a bubble  
from the wand in your chubby hand;  
iridescent, magical, unique  
it floats away from you  
released into its own life;  
it rises higher and higher  
and passes from sight;  
you begin to cry.

My breath brought you to life  
on a day of rainbows in a frantic sky.  
In time you will drift into your life  
free, hopeful, eager;  
my prayers my secret gift to you  
and I will cry for my loss.

## THE QUIET LIFE

by Anne Mc Manus

Fifty six years, ten months and five days I've been here;  
Outside once, emergency appendicitis, nineteen sixty two.  
Women only, all sorts, timid, proud, scheming, vain,  
moody, gentle, creative and tone deaf.

Sr Dolorosa reads only Latin, Greek, and German,  
declares all other languages barbaric,  
unworthy of her intellect.

A former Galway Oyster  
nightly winds her hair in rollers,  
her only remaining vanity.

Sr Seraphina, who is fond of altar wine,  
caught red handed by the prioress  
draining bottles in the garden shed.

Two widows, one fiftyish, one young,  
weep occasionally in chapel  
when they remember what has been.

Our organist, R.I.A.M, when she's had enough  
of plain chant  
breaks into Bach or Saint-Saens.

The prioress, a ballet dancer in her youth,  
gave it up for the cloister  
when she broke a leg  
in Romeo and Juliet.

Me, a broken promise,  
drove me here,  
aged thirty; I never pray for him.

Fifty six years, ten months and five days.  
making habits for the living and the dead,  
trying to discover God.

Anne McManus is a member of Salthill Active Retirement Writers Group, which is facilitated by Kevin Higgins.

For details of poetry readings and writing workshops in Galway contact Over The Edge on **087-6431748** or see <http://overtheedgeliteraryevents.blogspot.com>

# WRDTF - Western Regions Drug Task Force

By Patricia Byrne

A new Awareness Campaign has recently been launched by Minister John Curren on behalf of the Western Regions Drug Force (WRDTF) in cooperation with An Garda Síochána. According to Orla Irwin, WRDTF Coordinator, the campaign is directed at three groups – the community, young adults and teenagers – and aims to alert people to the dangers of substance abuse in Counties Galway, Mayo and Roscommon. The campaign highlights the importance of community awareness in the whole area of drug and alcohol misuse.

Based at Galway Technology Park, Parkmore, the WRDTF's main objective is to produce regionally appropriate responses to alcohol and drug misuse in the area. They also identify problems, resources and gaps in services in the area of drugs & alcohol and provide a coordinated response to substance abuse problems across the three counties. Established five years ago, as a result of the National Drugs Strategy, it is one of ten such regional centres across the country. It itself is not a direct service provider, but works in partnership with other bodies to respond to the issues of substance misuse through programmes aimed at supply reduction, treatment & rehabilitation, prevention/education and research.

One of the key features of the Task Force is a multi-agency approach through the involvement of the key statutory, voluntary and community agencies. These diverse groups are brought together under the aegis of the WRDTF and Galway City Community Forum is represented by Ms. Rose Kavanagh on the Task Force. It operates on the basis that a coordinated response is the best way to prevent and reduce the harm caused by the misuse of drugs and alcohol in its region.

Through its partner organisations, the WRDTF is involved in a series of projects and services. These cover education and AIDS awareness, counselling and addiction treatment, community and pharmacy liaison and research. A key feature of the WRDTF response is ensuring that services and programmes can be accessed on a regional basis, through the three counties of Galway, Mayo and Roscommon. It is involved in programmes with a range of partners in more than a dozen locations.

Funding for the WRDTF comes from the Department of Community Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs and is channelled through the National Drugs Strategy Team. The partner with which WRDTF works include the HSE Drug Service, local authorities, VEC, An Garda Síochána, Customs & Excise, AIDS West, The Simon Community and many more. 'Our aim', says Orla Irwin, Task Force Co-ordinator 'is to reach into communities throughout the region and stimulate those communities to raise awareness about alcohol and drug abuse so as to prevent the emergence of serious problems in their areas.'

**The WRDTF can be contacted at : Tel: 091-480044  
Email: [info@wrdf.ie](mailto:info@wrdf.ie), [www.wrdtf.ie](http://www.wrdtf.ie).**



## Focus on Sli Burca Residents Committee.

By Sarah Conway.

Considering Galway is now the third largest city in Ireland with a population of over 72,000, one can see why creating and maintaining a true sense of community has become harder and harder to achieve. However, this is exactly what the Sli Burca Residents Committee and Voluntary Management Association in Knocknacarra has done. One can measure just how far this Community has come just by looking at the smiles of the children who took part in its annual festival last month.

Sli Burca Residents Committee came into existence in April 2007 shortly after the establishment of the Sli Burca estate and community centre in 2006. Secretary Christine Hinchy comments on how the committee was set up 'We sent out leaflets and a questionnaire to ask residents as to what they would like their children to do and to find out where the children went to school so that we could arrange times for things to be on in the afternoon'. Having native Irish speakers on the Committee and a keen interest in promoting the language in the community, treasurer Maree Grogan looked for funding from Údarás na Gaeltachta who funded sean nós singing, sean nós dancing and Irish classes last year.

What makes this community a success is not simply the wide variety of activities for all age groups available in the community centre. From film workshops for teenagers to gymboree for mothers and babies, all members of the community are included and catered for. There is also a separate Sli Burca pre-school and after school service for busy parents. Furthermore, Sli Burca's community centre is not just for the 65 houses in the Sli Burca estate, it is open to everyone in the wider area.

The wonderful selection of services and activities available at the centre are thanks to the dedication and hard work of the committee's 7 members Finwee Gask, Laura Casserly, Andrea

Kelleher, Carmel Mannion, Chairperson-Bernadette Dirane, Treasurer - Maree Grogan and Secretary- Christine Hinchy. This committee had a busy summer preparing for their annual festival which took place the weekend of the 22nd-24th of August under the Community Festival's Scheme. This Spraoi Mór festival is a wonderful and fun packed showcase for the children, teenagers and adults of the community to show of their new skills. 'Every child in the show receives a prize. So the emphasis is on taking part', commented treasurer Maree Grogan.

Funding for this years festival was generated through various fundraising activities done by the committee and through support from Galway City Council, Údarás na Gaeltachta and St. Anthony's and Claddagh Credit Union. 'Funding is always really hard to get. We wanted to set up activities that were affordable for the children' comments Christine Hinchy. 'For example it was only 15 Euro a term for sean nós singing classes', she added displaying how the Sli Burca Community Centre truly is there for all the community to enjoy.

**For further information on the Sli Burca's community centre, funding or on any of it's classes telephone 087 943 7395 or check out the Knocknacarra notice board.**



**'Children of the Sli Burca's Community Centre who took part in the Spraoi Mor festival 2007'**

# Enable Ireland

## Action on Disability

Enable Ireland is the leading national provider of services to children and adults with physical and sensory disabilities, we give children and adolescents with physical and sensory disabilities the choice to play their part at home, at school, at work and in society. Our purpose is to make a positive and lasting difference to this journey for the child with a disability, their siblings and parents.

Enable Ireland Services in Galway began in 1985 with the provision of a pre-school service and limited physiotherapy services. The Children's Centre on the Seamus Quirke Road in Galway was officially opened in 1996 and now provides a wide range of therapies, services and support to children and adults with a variety of disabilities including cerebral palsy, spina bifida and muscular dystrophy. We also provide specialist services in Assistive Technology and (DCD) Developmental Co-ordination Delay.

This is a very exciting time for Enable Ireland as not only are we celebrating 60 years of service provision in Ireland, but in Galway construction is almost complete on our much anticipated Hydrotherapy Treatment Pool at the Children's Centre. The addition of a Hydrotherapy pool to the facilities in Galway will greatly enhance the opportunities for service users to reach their goals and will enable us to strive forward in ensuring those who use our services achieve maximum independence, choice and inclusion in their communities.

Enable Ireland has had a busy year to date with Fashion Shows, Church-gate collections, participants in marathons and mini marathons as well as a Buster Night at the Dogs held early on in the Summer. The calendar is even busier to the end of the year with lots of events and activities taking place around the city and county up to and including Christmas Day where they will be going for a swim in the beautiful but cold Galway Bay waters at Blackrock in Salthill.

Enable Ireland have just completed their Action Week on Disability 2008, where the theme of 'Access all Areas' provided lots of scope for people to get involved in their fundraising and awareness raising week of activities.

Upcoming events include a FunQuiz in the Front Door Pub on Monday 20th October @ 8pm. Early booking of tables is advised as this event sold out last year. The Annual Flag Day is taking place on Saturday 1st November, volunteers are needed to help make a success of the day. The New York City Marathon, Sunday 2nd November sees seven participants represent Enable Ireland Galway. A Christmas Wine Fair will take place at Cases Wine Warehouse on Thursday 13th November 6-10pm. Tickets priced €20 are now available from Enable Ireland and Cases Wine Warehouse. A special charity 'Night of Giving' will take place at the Eyre Square Shopping Centre on Wednesday 19th November, for more information call Joanne on 091 526 321. Tuesday 9th December will be 'A lot of laughs' at the Roisin Dubh where some well known comedians will take to the stage to

By Joanne Murphy.

entertain the crowd in a night of hilarity and fun! Information packs are now available for the Christmas Day Swim taking place @ 11am on the Prom on December 25th. Christmas Cards will also be on sale in a number of locations throughout the city and county.

The Enable Ireland Shop on High Street is always looking for donations of unwanted clothing, bric a brac, shoes, books and gifts. If you decide to do a spring clean this year why not donate your goods to the shop or drop them at the Enable Ireland Centre where they will pass them onto the shop for you.

There are plenty of opportunities to volunteer with the shop on a regular basis or with fundraising activities throughout the year. If you would like any information on the above or would like to organise a fundraising event in aid of Enable Ireland then **please do not hesitate to contact the Fundraising Office on 091 526 321 or email [galwayfr@enableireland.ie](mailto:galwayfr@enableireland.ie).**



**LEFT:**  
*'Pictured at the Connacht V Glasgow Warriors Rugby match on Sept 19th are Enable Ireland Mascots Louise O'Boyle and Dylan Harte with Captain of the Connacht Team John Muldoon'*

**RIGHT:**  
*'Pictured at the Swing Dance Extravaganza that took place on Saturday 20th September on Mainguard St as part of the Enable Ireland Action Week on Disability 2008 are members of Galway Swing Tara Breathnach and Vincent Guillemont.'*



galway city  
**community forum**  
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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.