



NATIONAL SPRING CLEAN 1ST – 30TH APRIL 2006

In association with the National Spring Clean Programme, Galway City Council will provide assistance to Community Groups, Residents Associations, Schools and other groups, who organise litter clean ups in their area. The City Council is committed to the development of partnerships with local voluntary organisations and encourages participation in activities that lead to the protection and enhancement of the Environment.

For a registration form and further details on National Spring Clean please contact the Environment Section of Galway City Council at (091) 536595 or log onto www.galwaycity.ie

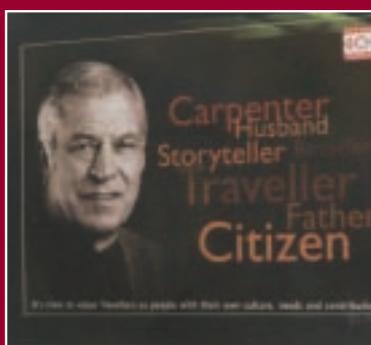
No Barriers Social Evening

Ballybane Community Resource Centre
Thursday 20th of April
8pm to 10pm
Food Entertainment Chat
Please come
Further Information 086 846 1270

In association with the National Spring Clean Programme - *Comhairle Cathrach na Gaillimhe*



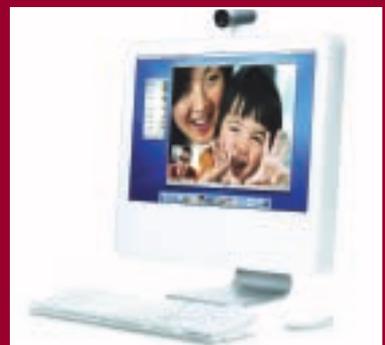
CLIMBING KILIMANJARO - PG.2



TRAVELLERS SUPPORT GROUP - PG.4



MAYORS AWARDS - PG.5



BLOGGING - PG.7

Doughiska On Africa's roof by Fearghal Wall

5895 meters, almost of 20,000 feet was conquered over a period of five days. Nights spent in a small tent sharing with people one has never met before along with some friendly Tanzanian mice, eating food the homeless would think twice about, toiletries facilities-non existent, physical endurance-extremely tough and the cost-literally enough to spend on seven sun holidays and yet despite all of the above I'd do it all over again in a heartbeat so says Doughiska Residents Association Chairperson Fearghal Wall.

Kilimanjaro includes the highest peak in Africa. Although believed to be extinct by many, this volcano is very much active. Fumaroles emit gas in the crater on the main summit of Kibo. Scientists concluded in 2003 that molten lava is just 400 meters below the summit crater. Although new activity is not expected, there are fears the volcano may collapse, causing a major eruption similar to Mount St. Helens. Several collapses and landslides have occurred on Kibo in the past, one creating the area known as the western breach. Although there is no recorded history of eruptions, local legend speaks of activity around 170 years ago.

The highest point is Uhuru Peak on the volcano Kibo, 5,895 meters. As the highest point in Africa, Uhuru Peak is one of the Seven Summits, the seven summits being the highest mountain on each continent, one down six to go!

An ascent of Mawenzi requires rock climbing and/or snow/ice climbing skills. Ample time must still be provided for proper acclimatisation to prevent altitude sickness when climbing to Uhuru Peak.

Endurance ability and determination are the key requirements for this expedition. What starts off on day one as a gentle slope ended as a vertical climb. So what makes Kilimanjaro better than lazing by a Moroccan swimming pool? Satisfaction, the feeling of having conquered Africa's highest mountain is one that cannot be compared to any other trip; it is definitely an event that ranks as one of the top ten events in one's life and if the climb is done as part of a charity fundraiser then the satisfaction is all the greater.

At the summit, there is a sign posted by the Tanzanian government. The sign (printed in English only) reads, in part, "Congratulations!



You are now at Uhuru Peak, Tanzania, 5,895 m.". The sign is covered in travel stickers from past trekkers who have left their mark on the top of the peak.

Due to the equatorial location as well as huge height, climbers can experience almost every climate type on earth during the journey to the top.

Kilimanjaro is also the highest point in the world to be covered by a GSM mobile phone network. The service is provided by Vodacom.

While the volcano appears to be dormant on the inside, it is the events that are taking place on top of the mountain that are drawing global attention recently. Decreased precipitation has resulted in glacier retreat on the upper slopes and summit of the mountain.

As of January 2006, the Western Breach route has been closed by the Tanzanian government following a rockslide which killed four people at Arrow Glacier Camp. The rockslide is believed to have been caused by frost action in an area which is no longer permanently frozen, however there are many other routes some more difficult than others through which the roof of Africa can be reached.

How Happy Are We Living In Galway?

by Dr. Frances Fahy

Quality of Life in Galway City is the focus of a new research project currently underway by Prof. Michael Ó Cinnéide and Dr. Frances Fahy of the Department of Geography, NUI, Galway, in association with the EPA and Galway City Council. The project aims to develop a set of locally based Quality of Life indicators for Galway. The people of Galway themselves will be heavily involved in identifying the features of urban life which are of greatest significance to them.

How satisfied are you with your neighbourhood as a place to live? How safe/unsafe do you feel in your local area? What are the environmental issues in your neighbourhood? Do you feel that your local area has got better or worse as a place to live? These are some of the questions which the research will be investigating.

It is hoped that the publication of the collected information will raise awareness about local development, quality of life, and 'livability' of neighbourhoods within the city. The research will be useful in informing the policies and practices of Galway City Council and other bodies caring for the city environs, leading to improvements in living conditions in Galway City.

During the month of February researchers from NUI, Galway will be chatting to citizens of Galway, young and old, living in a range of communities across the city, about the things they value in the city and their views on their local areas. The results will be publicly available in due course. For more information contact project Co-ordinator Frances Fahy, frances.fahy@nuigalway.ie or 091- 493897

C.A.T.S. - The Creative Arts Therapies in Galway



Creative Arts Therapies are a powerful way to work with human suffering. Art, dance, music and drama can take us to the core of our emotional experiences and help us to transform them. Creative expression in the context of a safe relationship, where there is no judgement or pressure to perform, can help us to change when caught in destructive patterns such as addiction or bullying.

Creative Arts Therapies include Art Therapy, Dance-Movement Therapy, Music Therapy and Drama Therapy. Professionally trained CATS are members of the Irish Association of Creative Arts Therapists. The Galway branch of this organisation, called IACAT AN IARTHAI, will be launched publicly in Autumn 2006.

IACAT AN IARTHAI is a recently formed group with a mission to bring the Creative Arts Therapies into communities in Galway. Creative Arts Therapists work with psychological distress. We focus on creating containment for the personal and collective psyche using different art forms. We work alongside community artists but with a different agenda, our agenda being process-orientated rather than attending to the aesthetic artistic product.

Dance-Movement Therapist, Bernadette Divilly, works with diversity issues using movement and body language to explore cultural differences with specific attention to conflict arising from internalised feelings of inferiority and superiority. She trained as a Dance-Movement Therapist in Naropa University, Boulder, Colorado.

Art Therapist, Ann-Marie Collins first became intrigued with the healing potential of art-making when working as a teacher of profoundly-deaf children. She discovered a powerful language to connect with others. She trained professionally as an Art Therapist in Crawford College of Art and Design and the University of Hertfordshire. She has specifically used Art Therapy in the treatment of addiction issues and in working with children.

All local Creative Arts Therapists are self-employed and work in private practice and through a variety of agencies involved in health and community welfare.

Galway-based Art Therapist, Sonia Joyce and Music Therapist, Bernadette Whyte are currently engaged in bringing Art Therapy and Music Therapy to the arena of Education in primary and secondary schools and to cancer care and hospice settings.

Galway, a city with a strong Arts culture, is now expanding into an inter-cultural community. The Creative Arts Therapies are ideally suited to addressing the psychological aspects of power imbalances which exist, at present, in our diversity. Bernadette Divilly offers a form of Dance-Movement Therapy called Dance Diversity. Dance Diversity honours cultural differences while working with power issues. Her next workshop is in Brigids Garden, Moycullen, May 3rd. This will be of interest to community activists and professionals aligning with "Galway, a City of Equals". Phone Bernadette on the number below.

The Arts are by nature therapeutic. Professionals with an in-depth understanding of creativity and psychological processes can provide a safe space for profound transformative experience using the Arts.

Watch out for the official launch of IACAT AN IARTHAI in Autumn 2006.

Contact:	Ann-Marie Collins, Art Therapist	086 1013763
	Bernadette Divilly, Dance-Movement Therapist	085 1260931
	Sonia Joyce, Art Therapist	086 6012413
	Bernadette Whyte, Music Therapist	087 6449700
	I.A.C.A.T.	www.iacat.ie

The Community Foundation for Ireland's Small Grants Scheme

The Community Foundation for Ireland's small Grants Scheme is now accepting applications for its first round of Grants in 2006.

The deadline is March 31st, 2006. Subsequent deadlines are July 31st, 2006 and November 30th, 2006.

Applications are open to Community & Voluntary groups within the Republic of Ireland.

The priority areas for the years 2004 - 2006 are to assist projects working to respond to Isolation and to develop a more Diverse society.

The Small Grants Scheme will have a particular focus on:

- Carers
- Older people
- People Leaving institutions
- Sexual minorities
- Ethnic Minorities
- Families at Risk

Application forms and guidelines are available at www.communityfoundation.ie or by calling 01- 8747354.

A Town Pigeon by Kathleen O'Driscoll

I had to give you a sea burial
in a paper bag
off Nimmo's
with two marguerites and a sprig
of white valerian.
Hope of slipping
your little mangled body
in the fast flowing river
stopped by progress,
not a secret unbuild inch
to clothe your dignity.

A hurrying car hit you.
Streams of traffic pounded you
to the road,
all blood and feathers.
Lunchtime crowds gaped and
turned away disgusted, in the
fastest growing city of Europe.

I nearly left you,
afraid they would think I'm crazy.
I'm sad as a child,
lonely as a sister.



New Museum

Galway Travellers Support Group by Brian McNamara



Having left its old premises on Prospect Hill in the autumn of last year, the Galway Travellers Support Group is now fully operational from its new home; on the first floor of No. 1, The Plaza, Headford Road. GTSG is comprised of members of both the Traveller and settled communities. The primary objective of the group is to improve basic living standards of Travellers, in addition to promoting Traveller culture and strengthening bonds between the two communities. The organisation focuses much of its attention on issues relating to Travellers' health, education, accommodation and economic development.

Tom Sherlock, a settled Traveller who has been living in Galway for more than four decades, reveals there to be approximately fifty Travellers currently involved in various projects within the organisation. He considers the GTSG to be of vital importance to the local Travelling community in its capacities as both an information and resource centre: "It broadens the mind. There was a time when we didn't have anywhere to go. We didn't have any support. Because of it things are getting better for Travellers in many respects. Through it we can now go up to City Hall and put our point of view across."

John Corcoran lives in a local halting-site. He also values the support the Centre offers Travellers on issues they may encounter in their day-to-day lives: "It's very handy that it is here. When we get stuck we can come here for information." Both Tom and John are currently working within the organisation's Men's Group.

GTSG has recently assisted three of its members in their graduation from a course at NUIG with Community Development Diplomas. A project the group is currently working on, in conjunction with the

Western Health Board, is a base-line research of wide-ranging Traveller issues. Julia Sweeney, a Community Worker with the GTSG, expects to have the findings published in May.

The new offices were blessed over the Christmas season by Fr. Stephen Monaghan, from the Parish of the Travellers in Dublin. Priests from around Galway City were also invited to join in the celebration. The occasion signified the importance of their Christian faith to the Traveller community. Friends and relatives of the Travelling community who had recently passed away were especially remembered. Candles were also lit and prayers offered by those present for the year ahead.



Julia Sweeney; community worker with the GTSG



John Corcoran and Tom Sherlock outside the GTSG's new offices; at No. 1, The Plaza, Headford Road.

Macnas announce their programme of work for 2006

by John Ashton

Macnas will facilitate a series of evening workshops in performance, making, drumming and stiltting which are free to participants, places are limited due to restrictions of space and resources but if you have a particular interest in these workshops contact Dave Donovan at the Fisheries Field workshop on 091 568896 or commun@macnas.com.

Macnas facilitated a workshop program with six schools in Loughrea and participated in their St. Patrick's Day parade – we also resourced the Galway parade with costumes and props.

The magnificent Macnas Summer Parade is due to be presented during the Galway Arts Festival again this year. Macnas are delighted with the collaboration with KCAT artists from Callan in Co. Kilkenny who are developing the theme and design of the parade alongside Macnas artists. The parade will involve 300

community participants who will rehearse and build the parade under the professional guidance of Macnas artists. This process offers a unique introduction to the creative processes involved in producing one of Ireland's biggest and best loved street events. Anyone is welcome to participate in the Macnas Parade on any level but resources available to the company will restrict the numbers of participants we can engage with this year, so if you are interested in joining in the fun and being an integral part of this extraordinary experience contact the Fisheries Field workshop as soon as possible.

Macnas will also be working in communities around Galway at Halloween again this year, supported by Galway City Council through the percent for art initiative.

More information on Macnas activities can be found at www.macnas.com

Mayor's Award Winners 2005

The third Annual Mayor's Awards celebrating voluntary activity in Galway City were presented at a ceremony in the Black Box Theatre, Galway on the 24th of January 2006. Nearly 70 people had taken the opportunity to nominate more than 60 individuals and organisations in the six different categories. The individual category winners were:



Arts, Culture & Heritage – Ms Mary Barrett of the Renmore Pantomime Society for its contribution to its local community and for the entertainment it has provided over the last 27 years;

Social & Community Support – Brendan Smith for his hard work in many areas of community support in the City including providing computer training to a variety of community groups and his championing of wildlife and environmental issues;

Children and Youth – Maureen Cox for her tireless work fundraising, organising respite for families and co-ordinating a trip to Lourdes for up to 60 children annually;



Winners of the Mayor's Awards 2005:
The award winners at the Mayor's Awards 2005 ceremony – at the back are Julie Henigan, Meals on Wheels; Mickey 'Sport' Walsh; Maureen Cox; Brendan Smith and Mary Barrett of Renmore Panto. At the front are Lesley Bohan, Mervue, Mayor Brian Walsh, and young volunteer Andrew Banks. Photo: Aengus McMahan.



Volunteer of the Year Winner:
The Galway Meals on Wheels volunteers were presented with the Ulster Bank Volunteer of the Year Awards. Photo: Aengus McMahan

Neighbourhood and Resident's Groups

– Lesley Bohan for her extensive work with a variety of community groups in the Mervue area.

Sports & Recreation

– Michael 'Little Sport' Walsh for a lifetime's work supporting the development of sport in the City including the Community Games, Galway United and especially his work with the Galway Lawn Tennis Club;

Young Volunteer of the Year

– Andrew Banks for his voluntary work with the Galway Red Cross and Galway Contact and not least for his breaking down barriers to integration as an asylum seeker from Liberia living in Galway;

Ulster Volunteer(s) of the Year

– The Volunteers of the Meals-On-Wheels service in Galway for their quiet, steadfast and invaluable work providing food and daily social contact to older people in the City.



(all photos Aengus McMahan)

Connecting Irish Travellers with the Canadian Mi'kmaq

By Sandra Bunting

You may not think that Irish travellers have much in common with the New Brunswick Mi'kmaq. However, a group of academics are looking into similarities of the two groups. One of those involved in the study is Dr. Niall McElwee, a Social Science consultant living in County Galway.

Dr. McElwee became interested in the culture and languages of Canada's First Nation people after attending a conference in Banff in 2001. The opening prayer in front of the thousand delegates was given by an Ojibwa man. Before he started he apologised in advance for not being able to say the whole prayer in his own language. This struck a chord with Dr. McElwee. In Ireland today, Irish (or Gaelic) is spoken pockets, English being the dominant language. The irony was not lost on him that the Irish had contributed to the loss of First Nation language through their running of residential schools in Canada.

That event in the west of the country started him on a journey to examine his own Irishness and explore connections between Canada's First Nation and Ireland's Traveller Community. In previous work and study, McElwee was surprised that the world's top scholars in the field of Child and Youth in Social Science knew nothing about Irish Travellers although they were familiar with the different communities of First Nation people.

Dr. McElwee became interested in Canada long before he first went there. His Aunt Norma, a journalist, lived in Vancouver for about 25 years before moving to London, and used to send him literature and information on first nation peoples. After studying English, politics and Sociology at NUI, Galway, McElwee went on to complete a PhD in Youth and Child Care in Cork. In 1992 he worked with residential childcare, prostitution issues, Travellers and manned a student help line. As the editor of the Irish Journal of Applied Social Studies, he received one or two articles from Canada and formed connections with the University of Victoria, the University of Alberta and the New Brunswick Community College in Miramichi on the east coast of Canada.

It was in Miramichi that the research into connections between the Mi'kmaq and the Irish Travellers became formalised. A research team

was formed with McElwee and his wife Susan McKenna forming the Irish side, interviewing First Nation Peoples in their communities (Reserves) of Big Cove, Eel Ground and Burnt Church. The interviews include participants of all ages. McElwee remembers a series of interviews with several generations of the same family. The Grandmother spoke only Mi'kmaq, her daughters spoke both Mi'kmaq and English and the children only spoke English.

In turn two researchers from New Brunswick, Margaret Sullivan and Lisa Durrett, have been documenting the lives of Travellers in Ireland. Preliminary findings are being presented to each community, not an easy task as it has to be vetted by the Native councils on one side and will go before a central Travellers' Committee in Dublin on the other side.

The research will be collected into a book, which will include other elements such as poetry and drawings of both Travellers and First Nation Peoples, traditional stories interwoven with personal accounts of the four researchers. Dr. McElwee, who is working out of the Athlone Institute of Technology, also has experience in creative writing and edited a literary journal for several years.

The researchers are exploring the connections and the differences of these two geographically-separated groups. It is bound to be controversial. On first glance, many of the same social problems have occurred in both communities. The big questions being asked are what is it to be a member of the First Nation people in Canada or a Traveller in Ireland. It examines the definitions by Modernists and by Traditionalists. The study is interested in the influence of the iconography of each of the groups, the common fascination with fire and horses. It looks at differences in terms of space: the reserve which is contained in a large track of land and the Travellers halting site which is crowded and just enough space for a caravan. But in the end, both groups are enclosed, contained.

The study does not attempt to say that Irish Travellers are the same as the Mi'himaqs or that they are genealogically related. However, researchers are intrigued by the name Ward, which is prevalent in both groups.

Galway AD/HD by Rose Kavanagh

Rose Kavanagh of Galway AD/HD spent two days in Brussels on behalf of "INCADDS" The Irish National Council of ADD Support Groups. Together with representatives from Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Holland, Italy, Luxembourg, Spain, Sweden and the UK. They formed AD/HD Europe and spent a hard-working week-end putting together their contribution on AD/HD to the EU green paper on Mental Health.

AD/HD is a chronic disorder requiring long-term treatment.

How is ADHD diagnosed and treated?

ADHD is a clinical diagnosis based on a careful and complete review of the patient's history and the observations of others. Only specially trained healthcare professionals can officially diagnose ADHD: they evaluate their patients based on the person's overall patterns of behaviour and the symptoms of the disorder, using the diagnostic criteria of DSM-IV TR.

They also evaluate other possible causes of inattentive or overactive behaviour, as well as common co-existing conditions and comorbidities, including SUD, psychiatric disorders, depression, anxiety disorders, oppositional defiance etc.

A multimodal treatment programme must be individually customised, continually monitored and optimised. Accompanying psycho-

education forms the basis of all treatments for ADHD. Effective interventions include behavioural therapy for the patient and his or her family, in school as well as at home. Drug treatment of the child plays a central role in many cases.

What are the potential long-term effects of ADHD?

Certainly, if not properly diagnosed and thus not or not properly treated, individuals have very high risks of difficulties in achieving success in many aspects of their lives:

- 1. Emotional Problems:** low self esteem, depression (leading to suicide)
Remark: it is noteworthy that ADHD is often the first cause of depression and often implicated in instances of suicide. Because of this psychiatrists must develop an in-depth knowledge of ADHD in order to thoroughly understand the issues surrounding the presenting symptomatology.
- 2. Educational Problems:** e.g.: unqualified school stop, under performance, school level below capacity, behaviour problems often resulting in suspension, leaving school early.
- 3. Relationship Problems:** increased conflict at home (parents, siblings) lack of social skills, higher rates of divorce.
- 4. Professional Problems:** unemployment, frequent change of employment, frequent job loss due to behaviour, dismissal due to inadequate performance (often unjustified).
- 5. Development of psychiatric problems** – conduct disorders, substance abuse, anti-social behaviour, criminal behaviour.

Time for the Public and Communities to Grasp the Power of the Internet

(Free Community Web Courses on Offer)

by **Brendan Smith**

'Blogs', 'podcasting', 'MP3 players', 'bitorrents', 'Skype', 'Semantic Web'.... A new language for a new cyber world that is dramatically impacting on our society.

Many Galwegians may believe that regular Internet usage is largely confined to a small band of college 'geeks'. This is an illusion. Spurred on by an explosion in cheaper high-speed Internet access and ever more easy-to-use online facilities, the amount of people using services on the World Wide Web has dramatically mushroomed over the last year.

A generation is growing up that considers the Internet its main source of communication. While the mobile telephone may have been the symbol for many of the 1990s, emailing (electronic letter writing) ran a very close second. Today of course, emailing can be done via the mobile. Though no statistics are available for Internet use in Ireland, it is worth looking at the situation overseas. An ICM/Guardian poll of a few months ago found that 31% of 14-21 year olds in Britain had their own website. France has over 3m 'bloggers' (online diarists).

In last week's Sunday Times, it was stated that a search on the Google engine for 'podcasts' (online radio broadcasts) in September 2004 would have resulted in 24 hits. Today this same search would result in 104 million! The recent dramatic increase in downloading music albums from the Internet has already led a serious decline in CD sales and the closure of a number of high-profile music stores in Britain and the United States. Likewise, a huge upsurge in online bookings for overseas travel and holidays has also led to a reduction in downtown travel retail outlets.

Yet strangely, in spite of Ireland's reputation as a high-tech economy with an upwardly mobile population, there is a serious low uptake on Broadband and therefore the utilisation of the Internet. Much of this can be attributed to a lack of technology investment in our educational sector and the delays in rolling out a nationwide Broadband (high-speed) infrastructure.

But is this lack of citizen's involvement in the Internet really a bad thing? After all, is the virtual world of cyberspace not a malign influence that is leading to a steep rise in vices such as child pornography and gambling? Is being stuck at a computer keyboard for 6 hours per day a contributory factor in the rise of obesity and a corresponding reduction in outdoor activities? Of course, there are truths in these beliefs.

Yet Internet technology has done much to revitalise traditional skills and to bring people, from all walks of life from all over the world, ever closer together. Thanks to 'Online Social Networks' and 'blog' (online diaries) there is a huge increase in person-to-person communications and in the art of writing. Video-blogs and hobbyist websites have allowed ordinary laypersons to suddenly become experts at movie production, journalism, digital graphic design and specialised photography.

The Digital Enterprise Research Institute (DERI) based at NUI Galway is one of the world's foremost research companies involved in cutting-edge Web technology. It also operates an Outreach programme that has provided practical Internet workshops for primary school children, teenagers, disabled groups, resident associations, parents groups, older people, asylum seekers and the Brazilian community in Gort. These courses are designed to improve the quality of life of the individual participants and their respective organisations. For example the African asylum seekers at the Eglinton hostel in Salthill have created their own worldwide online social community; Scoil Bhríde in Shantalla is involving pupils, teachers, past members and the local community in establishing an amazing online gallery of photographs from the 50 years of the school's existence; artist Sandra Bunting is using her personal weblog to publish extracts of her new novel week by week.

Later this month, DERI is organising an evening session for local city councillors to help them create their own easy-to-use websites.

DERI Outreach is now offering a FREE Internet course for community activists and organisations in websites (weblogs) design and a 'hands-on' introduction to some exciting new powerful low cost tools on offer to the general public.

The latter includes 'SKYPE' – an Internet service that allows users to phone land and mobile phones at a fraction of the normal charges. So if you are interested, book now as there are a limited amount of places available.

Contact Brendan Smith, Community/Educational Outreach Officer, Digital Enterprise Research Institute (DERI). Tel: 087-2935106; email: brendan.smith@deri.org.

Everyone's At It..... Even the Mayor by Sandra Bunting

Mayor Brian Walsh set up his blog several months ago upon the urging of Brendan Smith of DERI so that he could advise the public what he was doing as mayor, what he was involved in and what he thought about various issues. Although Mayor Walsh has not been able to update his posts on a regular basis due to a hectic schedule, he has had a good start.



Blogs can be used in many different ways and the mayor says he is impressed with what he has seen. Non-nationals use it to give news and contact home. Mayor Walsh has read blogs by members the African community in Galway who have been using this technology. The Mayor was also able to benefit first hand from a blog when invited to a wedding

in Austria. Information and directions were posted allowing guests to access the blog.

So, What's the Mayor been doing? Check out his blog at: www.brianwalsh2005@blogspot.com

However, it may be a while until he can update it and use it as he would like to do. The demands of the job just don't allow him the time at the present moment.

One project, and accompanying blog, that Brian Walsh is proud of, is the planned Mayoral Youth Conference planned for May 2nd at the Radisson Hotel in Galway. The day is focussed on issues of concern to secondary school students such as drugs, alcohol, self-harm and suicide, mental health and diet and fitness issues among other things. The conference will use a variety of ways to engage active participation of young people. Besides a panel of experts being on hand, drama and other activities will be used.

Mayor Walsh has allocated part of his Mayor's allowance to go towards the project and hopes it will continue in the future.

Comments, ideas and feedback on the conference are welcome. Go to www.mayorsyouthconference06@blogspot.ie

Project '06 / Togra '06

by Martin Crosbie

2006 will see a fully fledged and fully independent alternative programme of arts events, entitled Project '06, which will take place in Galway during the Galway Arts Festival from 18 to 29 July.

Already more than 60 projects, events or shows have been posted on the Project's website www.project06.com and the organisers expect that by the closing date for submissions on 1st May there will be nearly 100 events listed. The shows range from small childrens events to the Padraic Breathnach's Carnival Parade which is expected to draw up to 30,000 people on to the streets of the West on July 22. Well known Galway performers such as Little John Nee will perform alongside a whole new generation of Galway actors, musicians and artists. In the visual arts, the organisers have scored a coup with their exhibition "The Irish eye" which is a group exhibition featuring the greats of Irish painting and sculpture - Tony O' Malley, Sean McSweeney, Brian Bourke, John Behan, John Coll and many more.

Venues as diverse as schools, pubs, churches, the Courthouse and, of course, the streets of Galway will all be used, to truly bring the arts alive. Most original location (so far!) must be Tooth and Nail theatre Company who will perform on the untouched sand of Salthill beach at 9am.

Any artist or arts group who wished to participate should e-mail their suggestion to info@project06.com as soon as possible, but please note event promoters must be able to source their own venue.

The event will cover many disciplines including theatre, music, visual arts street performances, literary events and dance. The programme will reflect various groups and types of performances, including some which have not been featured in the Arts Festival programme in recent years. Project '06 will emphasise a more personal dimension in their events and infuse its events with fun, spontaneity and street activity. The programme will feature shows produced by Galway artists and groups as well as other acts presented by a new generation of Galway promoters. In the view of Project '06, it is that very vibrant local arts scene which has the capacity to attract international arts groups to the City.

The idea for the new festival has come from a group of locally based artists and promoters who feel that the Galway Arts Festival would benefit from more interaction with local artists. The Festival has made great strides in recent years attracting headline international shows, but Project '06 believes that the spirit of the Festival and the atmosphere of the streets, in particular, could benefit significantly by more engagement with local arts groups. This one-year-only project hopes to demonstrate in a positive and pro-active way that this can be achieved.

This new initiative is not a directed or programmed Festival: it is open to all arts groups; it is owned by whoever wants to participate in it and succeeds or fails on the reaction of the audiences. Artists or arts groups are invited to include projects in the Festival if they can source a suitable venue and funding for their event.

Closing date for inclusion in the programme is 1st May 2006.

The Small Crane Improvement Scheme

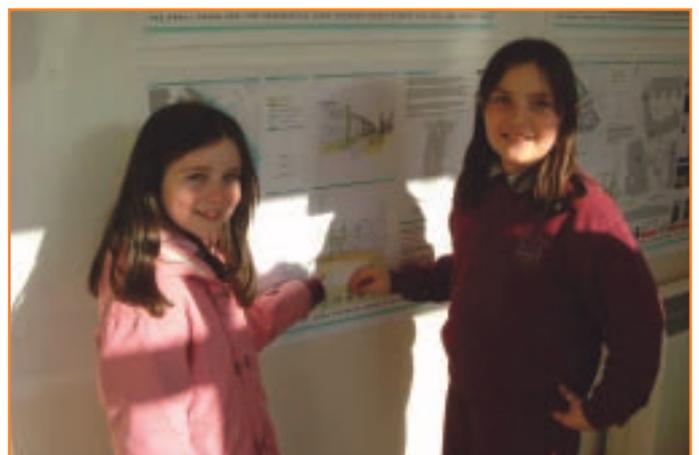
Photos by Helen Coleman



Sean Collieran, Sandra Bunting, Mick Crehan



Cathy McConn, Liz Hickey, Anne Marie Cusack



Aoileann Nic Dhonncha agus Hannah Ni Chonghaile ó Scoil Iognaid

Editors: Claire Ni Fhlaithearta; Sandra Bunting

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community forum
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www.galwaycityforum.ie email: communityforum@galwaycity.ie

* 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.