



Ballybane Active Retirement and the Protest March – Pg 6

Merry Christmas To All Our Readers



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VOLUNTEERS ARE READY AND WILLING!

Galway Volunteer Centre has been playing an increasingly important role in Galway City since the economic downturn began. The numbers of people registering to volunteer has increased greatly compared to 2008, with 200 new volunteers registering in September.

"September was our busiest month ever, with almost 9 people registering with us every working day. Many people are stating that they are looking to volunteer because they are unemployed and have a lot of time on their hands" said Donncha Foley, Development Manager with Galway Volunteer Centre.

There are now 2 volunteers working in the centre to help with the increased demands on the service. Anyone who registers to volunteer is invited to the office to look at the opportunities that organisations advertise through the centre. At the end of October 1550 people had registered in 2009. This compares to a figure of 874 at the same time in 2008.

The centre estimates that that people finding voluntary work through GVC have contributed at least 61,450 hours volunteering in their local community, which is the equivalent of 35 full-time workers. Statistics also show that most of the people registering with the centre have never volunteered before.

Donncha believes that this increase in registration presents a great opportunity for community and voluntary organisations. "One of the few positives due to the downturn is that people want to help out more in their local community and people feel that they have the time to do so. We would recommend that organisations look to see if they can involve more people in the valuable work that they do. The volunteers are there, ready and willing."

Galway Volunteer Centre is the fulfilment of the hard work of volunteers and voluntary organisations and is being funded in 2009 by the Department of Community Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, Galway City Council, and Galway Rural Development.



For more information on Galway Volunteer Centre you can visit the website on:
www.volunteergalway.ie
phone 091 539930 or call into the office at 17/18 Mill Street.

Nuala Shaw ACC in St. Francis Nursing Home

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Galway Simon Community can help you to do all those things!



How?

By donating good quality items to the Galway Simon Community Shops you can declutter and find a good home for items you no longer use or need. We need to specify good quality because they need to be in saleable condition or we will need to use our already scarce resources to dispose of them.

What Do We Need?

Furniture, Bric a Brac, household items, ornaments etc, clothing and footwear. We do not have a great need for children's clothes, toys or books at present but men's and women's clothes in good clean condition are always welcome.

Clothing, books and bric a brac are sold in the shop at 18 Sea Road, which is open Monday through Saturday

from 9.30 to 5.00, and furniture is sold at the new shop on Shantalla Road, which currently is open between 10.00 and 4.30 on Fridays only, though it is hoped that it will be open on Wednesdays as well in the very near future. Collections and deliveries of furniture can be arranged.

The telephone number for the shop in Sea Road is 091 58492 & the furniture shop can be reached on 087 2956282. There are good bargains available & all the proceeds go towards providing homeless services in the city and county.

Galway Simon Community has been providing services in the City since 1979 and without the support of the public and the income from the shops we would not be able to provide all the services we believe to be necessary to give individuals and families who are homeless new hope and new opportunities.

Mayor To Give Credit Where It's Due Call For Nominations For The Mayor's Awards 2009

The Mayor of Galway City has called on people in the city to give credit where it's due by honouring volunteers with a nomination for a Mayor's Award. Speaking at the launch in City Hall of the 7th annual Mayor's Awards, Cllr. Declan McDonnell, called on people in Galway to nominate unpaid volunteers for their work in the community in the city. Details were also announced of a three year sponsorship arrangement for the Mayor's Awards which will see the Credit Unions in Galway City continuing to be closely involved in the very successful awards up to and including 2011.

The Mayor's Awards 2009 will again acknowledge outstanding people and organisations that, through their commitment to participating in unpaid community and voluntary activities, have had a significant impact on the quality of life of their communities in Galway City.

Nominations are invited from people resident in Galway City for individuals or organisations for the Mayor's Awards 2009. There are 7 individual Mayor's Awards:

- **St Anthony's & Claddagh Credit Union Arts, Culture, Heritage & Cúrsaí Gaeilge Award**
- **St Columba's Credit Union Residents & Local Areas Award**
- **Naomh Pdraig Credit Union Social & Community Service Awards**
- **Sports Volunteer of the Year Award**
- **Children and Youth Support Award**
- **Young Volunteer of the Year**
- **The Galway City Credit Unions Volunteer of the Year**

Each of the Award winners will receive a Galway Crystal trophy and a cheque for €700 while all nominees will receive a specially designed certificate at the Awards ceremony to be held in January in the Black Box Theatre.

The three credit unions in Galway city, St Columba's, Naomh Pdraig and St Anthony's & Claddagh have come together as joint sponsors and have generously agreed to continue as sponsors of the Galway City Credit Unions Volunteer of Year Award. Each of the Credit Unions is also sponsoring one of the individual awards for the first time. The Mayor welcomed the continuing commitment of the Credit Unions as sponsors and praised them for their ongoing support of local communities even in such tough economic times as these.

The closing date for nominations is 31st December and nomination forms are available from City Hall, the credit union offices in the city and to download from www.galwaycity.ie.

SHOP TILL YOU DROP by Heike Vornhagen



Christmas is coming – and with it the urge to spend money on loved ones, to pamper oneself, to binge on food and drink. But at what cost? Latest news revealed that the UK wastes £12 billion of food and drink every year, 1/3 of China's CO2 emissions stems from the production of exports to the developed world, and dumping waste is far more cost-effective than disposing of it properly. At the same time, more than a million children regularly go to bed hungry in the US, Europe spends \$11 billion on ice cream per year, and of the 100 largest economic entities, 51 are corporations and only 49 are countries.

What is the link between all this? Why does it matter? Well, buying and selling stuff is as natural as eating and drinking. However, in order for corporations to earn more money, we have to buy and buy ever more goods. In fact, this was (and still is) a deliberate policy, which was developed after WWII, when analysts decreed that "our enormously productive economy ... [requires things to be] ... consumed, burned up, replaced and discarded at an ever-accelerating rate". So first, demand for a product is manufactured which then leads to increased production – which in turn leads to increased competition, lower prices, increased demand ... etc. Of course, in order to compete and be able to lower prices, companies need to save money and become more efficient. This they mainly achieve through mergers, large scale lay-offs, moving to countries with cheaper work forces and generally better business conditions (eg tax incentives, less social rules & regulations, poor environmental protection requirements). While their products become cheaper, their profits stay the same or even increase. This, though, is bad for everyone else. People in countries such as Ireland lose their jobs - putting even more pressure on buying ever cheaper goods. People in other countries – mainly the developing countries – have to put up with increased environmental pollution, child labour and ever worsening work conditions.

Of course, if you're one of those who profit from this system, it might not matter much to you at all – or, if it does, you donate some money to charity now and then to calm your conscience. And as long as we others do not see the link between buying cheap consumer goods and this system of exploitation, the rich get richer and the poor get poorer.



Heike Vornhagen is the co-ordinator of the Galway One World Centre (www.galwayowc.org), an education centre concerned with local/global justice issues,

“THE IRISH LANGUAGE IS WORTH IN EXCESS OF €136 MILLION ANNUALLY TO THE ECONOMY OF GALWAY CITY AND COUNTY”

By by Bríd Ní Chonghóile

Ar dtús báire, ba mhaith linn Nollaig Shona agus Bliain Nua faoi mhaise a ghuí oraibh go léir. Bhí bliain an-gnóthach ag Gaillimh le Gaeilge i rith 2009 agus ba mhaith linn ár mbuíochas a ghabháil le gach duine a thug tacaíocht dúinn i rith na bliana. Táimid ag tnúth go mór le dul i mbun oibre libh arís i 2010 chun an Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn inár gcathair uathúil. Ba mhaith linn an deis seo a ghlacadh chomh maith agus tréaslú leis na heagraíochtaí agus na daoine uilig i gcathair na Gaillimhe atá ag déanamh sárobair i gcur chun cinn na Gaeilge agus mar thoradh ar sin ag cur Cathair na Gaillimhe chun cinn mar chathair Dhátheangach.

We've all had a challenging year in 2009 and if we believe the experts, we have even a more challenging year ahead of us! However, we must remember that we live in a City that is well-known for its festivals, traditional music and Gaelic culture. It is also unique that we have on our doorstep, one of the largest vibrant Gaeltacht areas in the country, the Connemara Gaeltacht and the Aran Islands. Minister Éamon Ó Cuív, Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, launched a report, which was commissioned by Gaillimh le Gaeilge on “the economic benefits associated with the Irish Language which accrue to Galway City and to the Galway Gaeltacht”. The report states that the Irish language is worth in excess of €136 million annually to the economy of Galway City and County, supports over 5,000 jobs and more than 91% of Galway City businesses believe that it is a unique selling point for Galway's image and cultural identity. The report itself can be downloaded from www.gleg.ie.

At the Fáilte Ireland National Tourism conference last year, a statement was issued by Fáilte Ireland which noted that “cultural tourism is currently growing at a rate of 15% every year – three times the rate of general tourism. Our culture and heritage is a strong driver of tourism traffic to Ireland with 51% of our visitors citing a cultural or historical interest as their reason for choosing Ireland for a holiday. With cultural tourists spending almost double the amount of a city-break tourist, it is estimated that the **cultural tourism sector is worth €2 billion to the Irish economy every year**”.

We are all aware of the popularity of Galway City as a tourist destination. In this current economic

climate, the use of the Irish language is now more relevant and more valuable than ever to maintain Galway's unique character, individuality and appeal. It sets Galway City apart both nationally and internationally as a unique place to live, visit and invest. It also creates an ‘ideal landscape’ and provides us with a great opportunity to attract some of the €2 billion revenue generated by the cultural tourism sector to our city.

Gaillimh le Gaeilge work in association with Galway City Council, Galway Chamber, and other groups in the city to promote Galway as a bilingual city and to gain official bilingual status for the city. We offer consultation and support to anyone who wishes to use the Irish Language as a tool for innovation and marketing. Constant contact is maintained with clients through a varied networking and social programme, which includes **DEIS** a monthly newsletter, **Lónta Gnó, Social Events, an Irish language Business Directory on line**, an awards incentive programme **Gradam Sheosaimh Uí Ógartaigh** and **Séala Sheosaimh Uí Ógartaigh**, a ‘**Q Mark**’ for the Irish Language in Galway city. The Gradam Sheosaimh Uí Ógartaigh Award is now open for nominations until **Thursday the 14th January 2010**.

If you would like to use the Irish Language, for example in bilingual signage, bilingual stationery, bilingual menus or Irish placenames, please contact us at eolas@gleg.ie or 091 568876.

Tá Gaillimh le Gaeilge ag brath ar thacaíocht agus ar chomhoibriú mhuintir na Gaillimhe i gcónaí. To be part of Galway's ongoing bilingual policy and gaining special bilingual status for our city, please contact:

Bríd Ní Chonghóile, Ardfeidhmeannach, Gaillimh le Gaeilge, Teach Uí Chiaruáin, Sráid Thobar an Iarla, Gaillimh. Tel: 091 568876 Fax: 091 568836 Email: eolas@gleg.ie www.gleg.ie

Faigheann Gaillimh le Gaeilge maoiniú ón gCrannchur Náisiúnta tríd an Roinn Gnóthaí Pobail, Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta, ó Chomhairle Cathrach na Gaillimhe agus ó Chairde Ghailimh le Gaeilge i gcomhar le Cumann Tráchtála na Gaillimhe.



**Joe Mac Grath,
Caitlín Nic an Ultaigh,
An tAire Éamon Ó Cuív,
B Mullarkey,
Cathaoirleach GleG**



Zebra World is a group of volunteers, who work to support the integration of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers of all nationalities and religions into Irish society. The group has been in existence for four years now and works throughout Galway and Clifden. Together with other local organisations and institutions, such as Galway Refugee Support Group, One World Centre and the Direct Provision Centres, the volunteers of Zebra World work to build networks and raise awareness of the living conditions these groups are experiencing.

The volunteers of Zebra World meet regularly, in order to organise projects, share ideas and plan for upcoming events. On a weekly basis, Zebra World provides English classes to help people learn the language, strengthen their confidence and provide them with this necessary tool to play an active part in the Irish society. The volunteers also organise movie nights, day-trips and other family events for people living in Direct Provision Centres. A successful fundraising in June, including music performances, a raffle, games and food, helped to provide funding for day-out excursions to Connemara and the Aran Islands and Galway City Tours. Christmas 2009 will be celebrated at a big Christmas Party with an exciting entertainment

programme and treats.

The volunteers in "Zebra World" generally work to support people's interests and talents and help them to set up groups for people who have the same hobbies. Among the new activities for the coming year, the volunteers have planned to organise computer classes, as well as musical lessons like percussion workshops.

Since the members of Zebra World work voluntarily, they need all the help they can get to broaden their work to all Direct Provision Centres in Galway and Clifden. They experience a very friendly and empathic attitude on a one-on-one basis between the inhabitants of Galway and the refugees, migrants and asylum seekers, however only few local people know of the existence of the Direct Provision Centres and the difficult living conditions and the isolation, which the inhabitants face. Zebra World constantly tries to change this, to raise awareness and improve the quality of life for the people living there.

For further information and /or interest in volunteering and participating, please contact Laurent Pardon (lorenzo2104@yahoo.fr -085-1610995) or Gabriel Lawal (gabriellawal@yahoo.co.uk - 086-4035729).



Nomination of Sports Forum Representatives to Galway City Sports Partnership

Following the local elections in June 2009, a number of committees and boards are currently being reconstituted, including Galway City Sports Partnership.

Galway City Community Forum (GCCF) nominates four representatives to the Sports Partnership. One of these four representatives is nominated by the Community Forum as a whole. The final three representatives are nominated through the Sports Forum, which consists of Community Forum members with an involvement in the sports area.

The Sports Forum was first set up in 2007, but has of different reasons not organised meetings recently. However, as part of the reconstitution of the Sports Partnership, steps will be taken to re-establish the Sports Forum. It is the aim to organise 1-2 annual meetings in Sports Forum, facilitated by the Community Forum Co-ordinator and the Galway City

Sports Partnership Co-ordinator.

A meeting in the Sports Forum will take place in the beginning of 2009 in order to nominate three representatives on to the Galway City Sports Partnership. One representative will be nominated from each of following three clusters; outdoor sports, indoor sports and water sports. Only groups/clubs within the cluster can put forward nominations.

Notice of this Sports Forum meeting and a call for nominations will be circulated before the end of 2009, and all members of the Community Forum with an involvement in the sports area are strongly encouraged to register with the Sports Forum.

For further information please contact Galway City Sports Partnership Co-ordinator, Jason Craughwell, on 091-536459 or Community Forum Co-ordinator, Poul Walsh Olesen, on 091-536458.

GCCF CAMPAIGN AGAINST CUTBACKS IN THE COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY SECTOR

In July 2009, the "McCarthy Report" was published, also better known as the "An Bord Snip Nua" Report. This report was prepared by a special group set up by Minister of Finance, Mr. Brian Lenihan, TD, with the aim to make recommendations for the reduction of public service numbers and expenditure. A number of proposals were identified, including cutbacks in a number of programmes within the community and voluntary sector.

Following the Community Forum's Quarterly Meeting in September 2009, the Forum membership decided to launch a Campaign against the proposed cutbacks in the community and voluntary sector. A motion was passed in which the Community Forum expressed its concerns that the proposals by "An Bord Snip Nua" would have a devastating effect on local communities. It was felt that the sector had done much work to develop communities and provide a better quality of life for many. It was feared that if these proposals were implemented, the local community and voluntary sector would be taking a major step backward, which would be very hard

to recover from. The Community Forum therefore called on local representatives not to support the proposed cutbacks in community funding, or proposed cutbacks that will affect the most vulnerable in society.

The Community Forum subsequently came together with a number of community partners, including Galway City Partnership, Action for Equality Galway, Galway Volunteer Centre, and Ballybane Community Forum. A very well attended public meeting was held in the Galway Bay Hotel on the 7th of October 2009 with a number of speeches and presentations. Together with the community partners the Community Forum also co-organised a Protest March through the Streets of the City Centre on the 17th of October 2009 with an estimated 500+ participants, which saw Eyre Square transformed into a sea of banners and worried community representatives.

The photos in this article are all taken during the Protest March and gives a good impression of the atmosphere on the day. At the time of deadline for Tribe Vibes Winter Issue, the budget for 2009 has yet to be published.



1. Frank Okonwo and Brendan Smith at the Protest March

2. Ala at the March

3. Bridie and Elizabeth from Ballybane Community Childcare

4. Protesters at the March

OPEN HOUSE GALWAY – A RESOUNDING SUCCESS

by Lorna McGuire



The inaugural Open House Galway, which took place on the 16th-18th of October, in association with the Irish Architecture Foundation, has been a resounding success and has firmly established itself as one of Galway's premier festivals. People came out in their droves to experience some of Galway's examples of quality design and declared themselves delighted with what was on offer. The organizers are already thinking ahead to next year's event and to a much-extended programme.

"We are thrilled with the public response and enthusiastic engagement with Galway's first architectural event", said Patrick McCabe, Chairman

of Open House Galway's Steering Group. "Many people visited not just one building but as many as they could fit in and were delighted with the quality and variety of design presented while the architects who conducted the tours were also pleased to get feedback from the public. It's obvious that there's a demand for this event in Galway and it is our intention to expand the programme for next year to incorporate further elements to ensure the public remain interested and engaged with our built environment. The tremendous success of Galway's first Open House has proved that the public enjoy and appreciate quality architecture design", he said.

Almost 300 people attended the Official Opening in the Centre Pier Building on Friday evening, where Swedish architects JM – Konrad Milton and Carl Jagnefait scooped the Centre Pier, Galway Harbour Ideas Competition with their entry entitled 'The Sky Pier – Unity in Duality' while Galwegians Laura O'Brien and Faela Guiden won the student category. Cont./

Throughout the weekend, there was an excellent response to the architecture exhibition and the public who were invited to vote for their favorite design choose Paul Treacy (Paul Treacy Architects Design UK) top of their list. Local Architects Emmet O'Donnell and David Heffernan came 2nd and 3rd respectively.

Natalie Weadick, Director of the Irish Architecture Foundation said: "Seeing so many people participating in Open House Galway was thrilling. It's great to see so much interest in architecture. Congratulations to Galway!"

With so much variety on offer, the challenge was to visit as many buildings as possible in such a short space of time. The Marine Institute alone received 350 visitors, while Mutton Island Lighthouse was another popular choice for many. NUI Galway's guided tour also attracted significant numbers to view architectural design spanning three centuries.

Throughout the City, visitors poured through the doors of the private and public buildings on view, while at Galway City Museum, children got to grips with the built environment through workshops, which had been booked out well in advance.



1.



2.

**1.OHG opening competition winners Cat A architects
2. OHG programme launch**

WESTSIDE RESOURCE CENTRE

Westside Resource Centre now has a selection of rooms available to rent. Westside Resource Centre is a community based organisation with charitable status. The Resource Centre provides high quality serviced office accommodation to community, voluntary, not-for-profit, charitable and educational organisations.



**James Coyne:
Resource Centre Manager**

The Resource Centre currently has a number of finished rooms available for immediate occupation.

Resource Centre Manager, James Coyne, is looking for more occupants and aims to attract charitable groups, statutory agencies and educational providers who are interested in delivering their services to the Westside area in particular and Galway City in general. The Resource Centre currently provides permanent accommodation – Westside Community Development Project, Big Brother Big Sister, GOAL, Galway Rape Crisis Centre – Fundraising Section, Galway Advocacy Service, Life Ireland Pregnancy Care

& Westside Crèche & Pre School. The Resource Centre also provides regular meeting and training rooms to numerous other local and national groups.

"We are now in a position to offer a number of different sized offices for short or longer term lease. We provide a range of useful services which allows our tenants to focus on delivering their own core service whilst we take care of the premises. We work closely with all our tenants and regular bookers to promote their activities and our ongoing commitment is to provide a professional service whilst still maintaining a supportive community atmosphere and ethos." James said.

Westside Resource Centre has a number of excellent meeting rooms which can be booked out hourly or daily. These rooms are ideal for meetings, training sessions, short courses and seminars. The Resource Centre is situated in a very convenient central location and is equipped with its own Computer Room, wireless broadband access, photocopying & faxing service, is fully wheelchair accessible and has free car parking.

**For further information - Please phone
091 528325 or e-mail: infowcdrc@eircom.net
or call in to Westside Resource Centre,
Seamus Quirke Road, Galway.**



[POETRY CORNER]

Our House An Island

by Marie Nicholson

Secretly they come in the middle of the night.
Millions of snowflakes like aliens without invitation.
I awake to immediate laughter.
It is 1982.

Nervous excitement at the thought of NO SCHOOL.
Opening the door with gloved hands
I am stunned in my purple wellies, confronted
by pure white snow.

Institutionalised for seven days, no record player
or MT USA. I am 14.
Tilly lamps and candle wax drip from every cranny.
We play poker with matchsticks
and build Monopoly hotels.

Our staple diet of lamb stew, lamb chops
and more lamb following the necessary
slaughter in the shed.
Our little island of singing songs,
Dad playing the banjo, telling old stories and new.

Then the snow melted.

*Marie Nicholson lives in Tuam and recently participated
in a poetry workshop at Galway Arts Centre facilitated by
Kevin Higgins*

The Woman I Might Have Been

by Mary Lyons

The woman I might have been
has never seen
a spreadsheet.

Deprivation indeed,
but here's the compensation:

Her youth,
unshackled by acne or rosary beads,
was lived, yes lived,
amid Gothic flounces of
nonchalance and arrogance
and reckless deeds.

Escaping rain, rheumatic pain:
the West of Ireland wretchedness
forsaken when adventure beckoned in
Prenzlauer Berg or the Quartier Latin -
inhaling enlightenment and Gitanes.
A string of lovers all discarded
heartlessly; dabbings
in absinthe and astrology.

In the stars she sees a novel, just like me.

But a cosmic misalignment,
an accident of timing
in the labour ward
means she's the one enthralling readers
and signing books in Easons.

My phantom twin would pity me -
she has no need of Susan Jeffers or NLP.

*Mary Lyons works at NUI Galway and was
recently a participant in a poetry workshop at
Galway Arts Centre facilitated by Kevin Higgins.
She read her work at the open-mic at the
October 'Over The Edge: Open Reading'.*

SUCCESSFUL COMMUNITY FORUM AGM By Poul Walsh Olesen

There was a good turnout for the Community Forum's Annual General Meeting (AGM), which was held on the 1st of December 2009 in the Menlo Park Hotel.

In her Annual Report, Ms. Nuala O'Hara, Chairperson of Galway City Community Forum, outlined some of the highlights in 2009. She welcomed the more than 15 new members who have joined the Community Forum in the past year and thanked the Community Forum for the privilege of serving as Chairperson. She expressed her gratitude to the Department of Community and Enterprise, the Forum's Steering Group; the Community Forum's Representatives and all the other Forum members who have taken active part in running the Community Forum.

On the night, nominations were put forward for the election of the new Steering Group for 2010. The new Steering Group is as follows:

- Ms. Nuala O'Hara, Tirellan Heights Residents Association
- Mr. Jim Aherne, ALA
- Mr. Edwin Brennan, Galway Lawn Tennis Club
- Ms. Lorrienne Carroll, Fana Glas Residents Association
- Mr. Tommy Flaherty, Ballybane Community Resource Centre
- Mr. Donncha Foley, Galway Volunteer Centre
- Mr. Derrick Hambleton, An Taisce
- Ms. Sheila Mangan, Tirellan Heights Residents Association
- Mr. Frank Okonwo, Progressive Friends Association
- Ms. Sinead Roche, Threshold
- Mr. Stan Sjothun, Claddagh Heritage Society
- Ms. Deirdre Dooley, ALA
- Ms. Evelyn Moran, Renmore Active Retirement
- Ms. Sybilla Snake, Ballybane CDO
- Ms. Eleanor Hough, Grattan Court Residents Association

Ms. Nuala O'Hara thanked the members of the Steering Group who had chosen to step down this year and expressed her hope that they would continue to be active members of the Community Forum.

Please contact the Co-ordinator at 091-536458 or communityforum@galwaycity.ie for a copy of the Co-ordinators Report or the Treasurers Report for 2009.

galway city  forum
foram pobal chathair na gaillimhe

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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.