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Kilkee Civic Trust

Summer Programme 2024

Kilkee Civic Trust, (KCT), is a non-profit organisation working to enhance the quality of life in Kilkee, and its hinterland, by preserving and promoting its cultural heritage, and so making it a more attractive place to live, work and invest.

Talks - Arts in Focus - Music

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KCT Summary of Events - 2024: Page Nos. 5 & 6

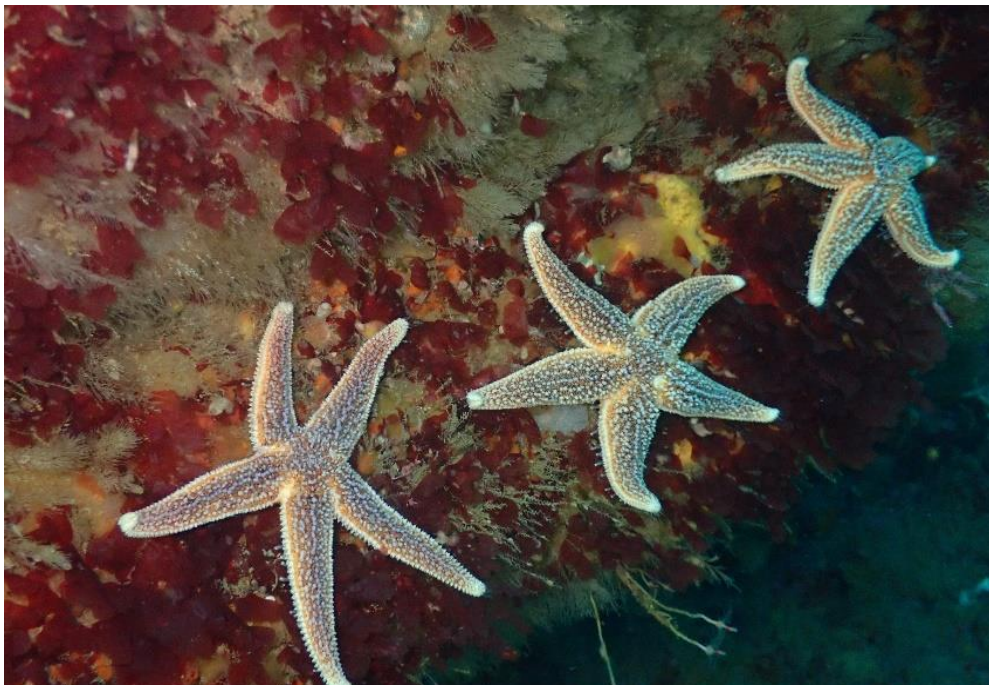
Arts in Focus: Page Nos. 9 & 10

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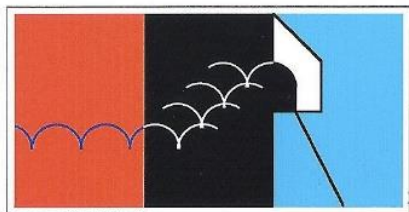
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All of our events are recorded by Raidió Corca Baiscinn for subsequent broadcast on 92.5 & 94.8 FM streaming & later podcast on www.rcb.ie



Three Starfish ~ © Vanessa Keane, Photographer



Kilkee Civic Trust

Foreword

By Chairman of Kilkee Civic Trust
John Williams

On behalf of the members of Kilkee Civic Trust I would like to warmly welcome you to the 2024 summer programme. Once again, we present a programme of talks, music and performing arts which we hope will inspire, inform and entertain our supporters both new and old.

Our line-up of speakers for our Wednesday evening talks is an eclectic mix of well-known national names and local speakers.

As usual we have our annual Arts in Focus evening, which promises to be a delightful variety concert.

Our music events will take place at the Bandstand on the promenade in Kilkee, where Limerick Opera Festival Company, Ennis Brass Band and Boherbuoy Brass & Reed Band will entertain us.

In September our Kilkee Arts Festival will once again highlight Charlotte Bronte and her honeymoon in Kilkee. This festival takes place over the weekend of September 13th and 14th and prominent experts on the writer will make presentations.



John Williams

All our events are recorded by our local community radio station, **Raidió Corca Baiscinn**.



Steven Addy

Later, the recordings will be broadcast on the on 92.5 – 94.8 FM local waveband and streamed online at www.rcb.ie

All past recordings are also available as podcasts, in the radio station archives.

We greatly appreciate and express our thanks to the entire team at Raidió Corca Baiscinn, particularly Máiréad O’ Higgins Finnegan, Bainisteoir, and Steven Addy, Technical Director, for their expertise and commitment in making this Treasure Trove Archive possible and available.

This work and commitment has been recognised by Craol’s Gold Award in 2022.

CRAOL is otherwise known as Community Radio Ireland / Raidió Pobl na hÉireann, who are kindly supported by the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland / Údrás Craolacháin na hÉireann now Cominsiún na Meán



Each year, we seek to highlight local artwork in our KCT Programme. As in previous editions, we again showcase some of the work by Ruth Wood, Artist and that of William Glynn, Photographer. (Amongst our KCT founder members are William & Maureen Glynn).



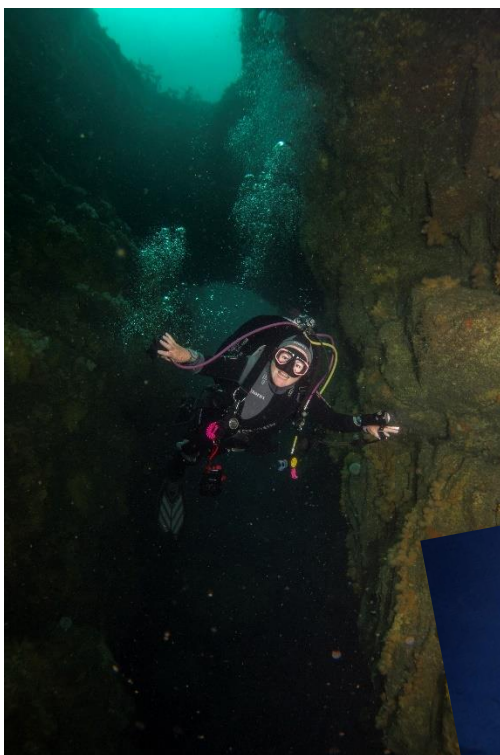
Sandaled Anemone ~ © Vanessa Keane, Photographer

This year, for the first time, we feature the magnificent work of a well-known local photographer. I would like to especially thank Vanessa Keane, Photographic Artist, whose fabulous photos she has allowed us to use.

During the year we lost the services of Tom Corry, Theatre Assistant at Cultúrlann Sweeney / Kilkee Library, who proved himself to be of immeasurable assistance in running our events for the past several years. Tom's generous help, cooperation and kindness will not be forgotten. We wish Tom every success in his new role.

As Chairman of Kilkee Civic Trust I want to take this opportunity to thank my fellow committee members for their input into the work of Kilkee Civic Trust. I especially have to thank our secretary Joseph McCloskey for the Trojan work on putting this excellent programme together. We are also very grateful to Siobhán Mulcahy, Clare County Arts Officer, for her much-appreciated support for our events.

We look forward to seeing you all over the summer days ahead.



*Vanessa Keane
Comfortable in her Underwater World*

Vanessa Keane is a Kilkee native.

She is a keen photographer and a member of Kilkee Sub Aqua Club.

Her passion for underwater photography is evident in each and every example of her work.

All of her photographs, showcased in this programme, were taken in the magical waters around Kilkee.



Comb Jelly near surface ~ © Vanessa Keane, Photographer



Cuckoo Wrasse ~ © Vanessa Keane, Photographer

KCT Talks 2024 will be hosted at Cultúrlann Sweeney, O'Connell St., Kilkee V15 P960

Free of Charge Entry to all KCT Talks & our annual Arts in Focus evening.

All of our speakers give of their time and energy on a pro-bono basis.
The appreciation of the audience & KCT is expressed by way of presenting each speaker with a Book Token,
or similar, at the end of each KCT Talk.

A Donations Box is provided at KCT Talks / events
to assist us in defraying necessary expenses.

Covid-19: All Health & Government Guidelines will be followed at Cultúrlann Sweeney.
Patrons are welcome to wear face masks, if they so desire.
Hand sanitiser is located throughout the building.

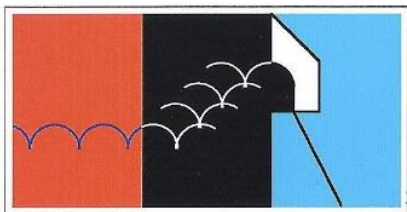


Jewel Anemones ~ © Vanessa Keane, Photographer



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CONTAE AN CHLÁIR | COUNTY COUNCIL





Kilkee Civic Trust

Programme Summer Events

July to September 2024

*All KCT Talks are at 8pm
on Wednesdays in July & August
while other event days vary.*



*Starfish ~ © Vanessa Keane,
Photographer*

July 2024

Wednesday, 3rd July Dr Paul O'Brien

- A lost James Pain Masterpiece: Building Lisrcrona House (1856)

Friday, 5th July *Arts in Focus* at 8:00 pm

Wednesday, 10th July Lisa O'Sullivan

- Are you being served? The rise and fall of domestic service in Kilrush, Co. Clare from 1881 to 1951

Wednesday, 17th July Professor David Dickson

- Remembering Kilcasheen: Co Clare and the Frost Famine of 1740-41

Wednesday, 24th July Ken O'Sullivan

- INTO THE DEEP

Wednesday, 31st July Colm Liddy

- A QUICK GALLOP THROUGH IRISH HISTORY (10,000 YEARS SQUASHED INTO AN HOUR)

Saturday / Sunday in Late July

- Limerick Opera Festival - Opera for All
 - Performance at the Bandstand / Date & details later



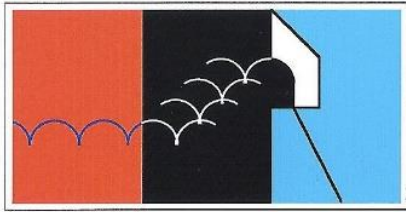
*Bandstand Kilkee
~ © Ruth Wood, Artist*



*Nudibranch ~ © Vanessa Keane,
Photographer*



*Spider Crab ~
© Vanessa Keane,
Photographer*



Kilkee Civic Trust

Programme Summer Events July to September 2024



*A Lawrence Collection Photograph
from 1870
Hard Times for Donkey & Owner*

All KCT Talks are on Wednesdays, in July & August, while other event days vary.

August 2024

Wednesday, 7th August Fionnuala Walsh

- Cappa to California, Swimming the Waters of the World

Wednesday, 14th August Ger Kelly

- From Kilkee to Tipperary: A Veterinary and Sporting Story

Wednesday, 21st August Ruairí Ó Conchúir

Heritage Week Event

- Water Is Life: Protecting Local Waterbodies & All The Life They Support

Wednesday, 28th August Dr Robert Brown

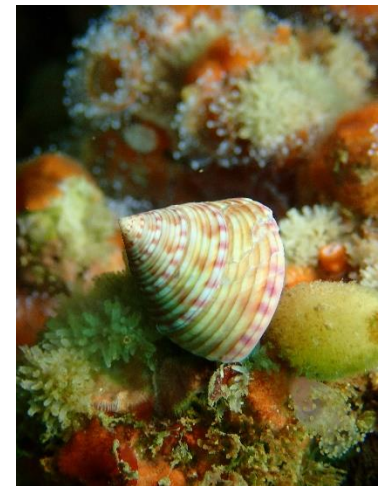
- The life and times of Father Meehan and the Little Ark

An August Saturday or Sunday

- Boherbuoy Brass & Reed Band Date & details later

An August Sunday

- Ennis Brass Band Date & details later



*Sea Snail Shell ~ © Vanessa Keane,
Photographer*

September 2024

Friday, 13th September & Saturday, 14th September

Kilkee Arts Festival Charlotte Brontë



*Nudibranch Eggs
in Rose Formation
~ © Vanessa Keane,
Photographer*



Basking Shark ~ © Vanessa Keane, Photographer

Date: Wednesday, 3rd July 2024 at 8pm

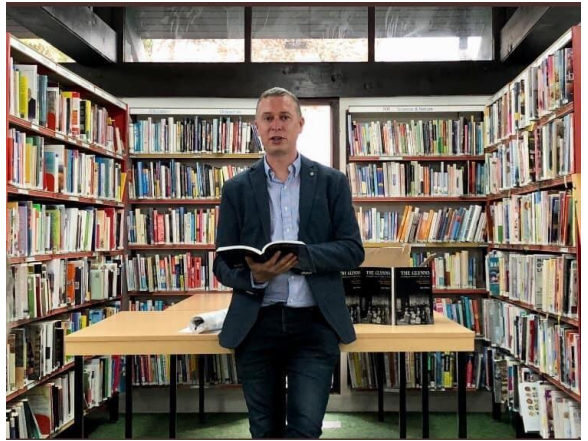
No. 1 of 9 Talks

Speaker: Dr Paul O'Brien

Talk Title: A lost James Pain Masterpiece
Building Liscrona House (1856)

Talk Description:

In 1856, Liscrona House was designed by the renowned architect, James Pain for the MacDonnell landlords.



Dr Paul O'Brien

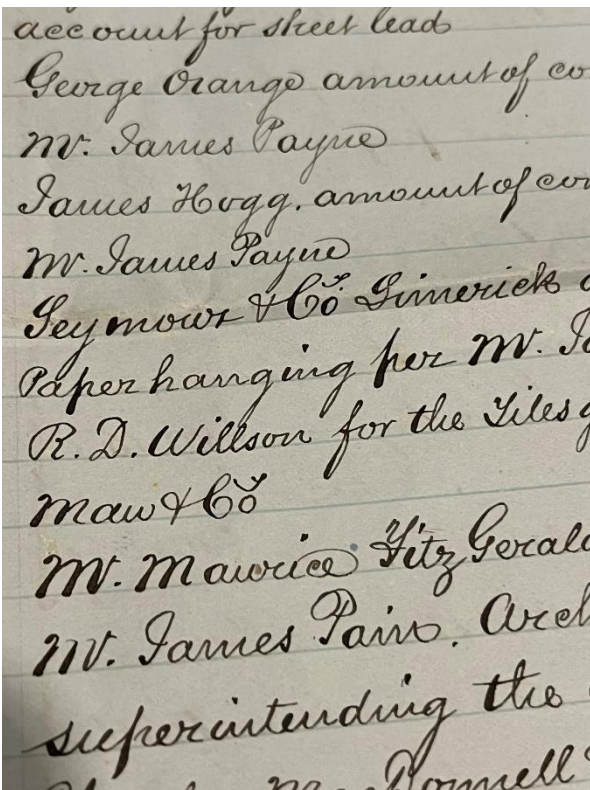
The fascinating building accounts, materials, and fitting out cost of Liscrona were recently rediscovered as part of a much larger archive, in the attic of a house on the North Circular Road in Limerick.



Paul's lecture will reveal insights into the planning and design of Liscrona and profile its occupants over the years.



Liscrona House



About the Speaker:

Paul O'Brien received his doctorate from the Department of History at Mary Immaculate College, University of Limerick, where he lectures in the Academic Learning Centre.

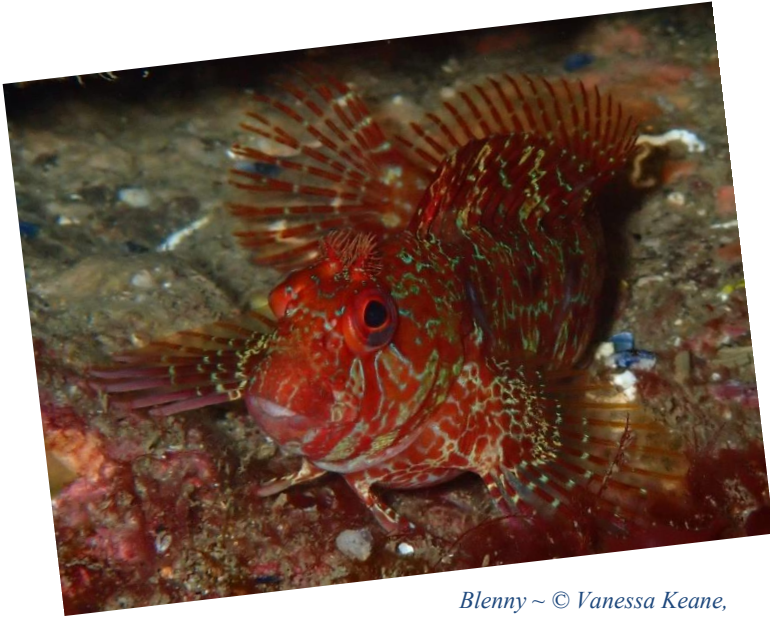
In 2019, he published a monograph based on his PhD thesis: *The Glynn's of Kilrush, County Clare, 1811–1940: Family, business and politics* (Four Courts Press).

He has just co-authored a new book entitled 'Taprooms, Taverns and Alehouses: Limerick City Pubs, 1850-2024'. He is working on a new study about the suburban villas of Limerick City.

In 2016, Paul was a research fellow at Centre Culturel Irlandais, Paris. He is a member of the Council of Europa Nostra.

Paul is a recipient of the Military Heritage Trust of Ireland award for his research into recruitment practices during the First World War.

He has appeared on BBC and RTE television.



Blenny ~ © Vanessa Keane, Photographer

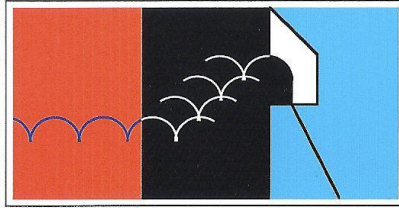


Diamond Rocks, Kilkee
© William Glynn, Photographer



Jellyfish ~ © Vanessa Keane, Photographer

Arts in Focus



Kilkee Civic Trust

Annual Gala Concert 2024

Friday, 5th July at Cultúrlann Sweeney, Kilkee
Gala Concert at 8 pm

An Evening of Music, Song, Dance & Poetry



A Celebration of all Artistic Talent

Arts in Focus organisers are Fionnuala Murnane & Daithí O'Connell
A special "Thank You"
to all our Arts in Focus participants
You make this night possible every year!

***All donations raised will benefit:
UNICEF for Children of Gaza***

Fundraising in Support of

UNICEF

Kilkee Civic Trust
presents.....

Girts 2024 IN FOCUS

CONCERT FRIDAY 5TH JULY AT 8.00 PM
ADMISSION FREE

SOPHIE DALY
VOCALIST

**GRÚPA
CEOIL
CORCA
BAISCINN**

**AMY
HOGAN**
HARPIST

**EMMA
KARREN**
CLASSICAL
FLAUTIST

**AOIBHEANN
BOYLE**
SINGER
SONGWRITER

**ALEX
HARVEY**
GUITARIST
SINGER
SONGWRITER

**THE BAY
VOCAL
QUARTET**

**DONATIONS
TO UNICEF
FOR CHILDREN
OF GAZA**

MINOGUE
SCHOOL OF IRISH DANCE



Date: Wednesday, 10th July 2024 at 8pm

No. 2 of 9 Talks

Speaker: Lisa O'Sullivan

Talk Title: Are you being served?
The rise and fall of domestic service in Kilrush, Co. Clare
from 1881 to 1951

Talk Description:

The talk will explore the changes in society in Kilrush prior to 1881, which led to the employment of hundreds of domestic servants in the town.

Lisa will further examine the later changes which resulted in the disappearance of single servant households by the mid twentieth century.

The talk will expand on the lives, roles, and conditions of these domestic servants.



Lisa O'Sullivan



Portrait of two servant girls, identified as Pat Dolan's daughters, at back of Clonbrock House, Co. Galway" ~ 25 April 1881

About the Speaker:

Originally from Waterford city, Lisa has been living in Kilrush since 1985.

Lisa has a BA in English and Ancient Greek and Roman Civilisations from NUI Maynooth, and more recently has completed a module of the MA in Local History from UL. This led to the publication of an article in *The Other Clare* (Volume 40) which forms the basis for this lecture.

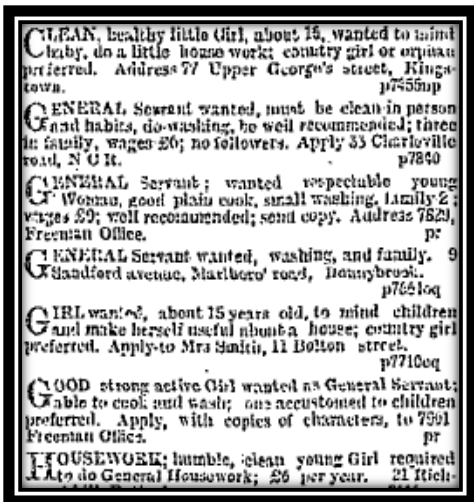
Lisa is most interested in social history and the ordinary lives of ordinary people in the past. She is the Chairperson of the Kilrush and District Historical Society.



Kilkee Cliff Walk in May, with Sea Pinks in bloom



Congar & Shrimp ~ © Vanessa Keane, Photographer



Typical newspaper advertising, of the era, seeking domestic servants

(Transcription of advertising text below)

- Clean, healthy little Girl, about 16, wanted to mind baby, do a little housework: country girl or orphan preferred. Address 77 Upper George's Street, Kingstown p7455ap
- General Servant wanted, must be clean in person and habits, do-washing, be well recommended; three in family, wages £6; no followers. Apply 33 Charleville road, N O K. p7840
- General Servant; wanted respectable young Woman, good plain cook, small washing, family 2; wages £9; well recommended; send copy. Address 7629, Freeman Office. p7710eq
- General Servant wanted, washing, and family. 9 Sandford Avenue, Marlboro' road, Donnybrook. p766kq
- Girl wanted, about 15 years old, to mind children and make herself useful about a house; country girl preferred. Apply to Mrs Harkin, 13 Bolton Street. p7710eq
- Good strong active Girl wanted as General Servant; able to cook and wash; one accustomed to children preferred. Apply, with copies of characters, to 7961 Freeman Office. p7961
- HOUSEWORK; humble, clean young Girl required to do General Housework; £6 per year. 21 Rich...

- Good strong active girl wanted as General Servant; able to cook and wash; one accustomed to children preferred. Apply, with copies of characters, to p7961 Freeman Office
- Housework; humble clean young girl required to do General Housework; £6 per year. 21 Rich...



Bishop's Island, Kilkee ~ © William Glynn, Photographer



Close Up of Jewel Anemone ~ © Vanessa Keane, Photographer



Kilkee's Road Train



Blenny © Vanessa Keane, Photographer

Date: Wednesday, 17th July 2024 at 8pm

No. 3 of 9 Talks

Speaker: Professor David Dickson

Talk Title: Remembering Kilcasheen: Co Clare and the Frost Famine of 1740-41

Talk Description:

The Frost Famine of 1740-41 remains a shadowy episode in Irish history, despite being more costly of human life than any other event between the Cromwellian reconquest and the Great Famine of the 1840s.

It remains shadowy because unlike the Great Famine it is not well documented and the oral memory of its impact was lost over time.

The Famine was triggered by a series of weather anomalies that affected most of northern Europe, but the human impact of the strange weather was greatest in Ireland, with Munster and the south Midlands particularly hard hit.

There are several great monuments associated with the crisis still surviving in the Dublin region (on Killiney Hill and at Castletown), the result of privately sponsored relief works, but there does not seem to be a single monument or marker of the event in Munster, the epicentre of the crisis.

The small burial ground near here at Kilcasheen could be an exception to this, where we have unambiguous documentary evidence that it became an emergency burial pit in 1740-41. We will consider whether therefore west Clare was particularly badly affected by the famine, and if so, why? But whether or not it was, the grave-yard at Kilcasheen can tell a far wider story.



A much-loved Stile in the Sea Wall
Photograph courtesy of - © www.westclare.net



Arctic Ireland: The Extraordinary Story of the Great Frost and Forgotten Famine of 1740-41 (Belfast, 1998).

About the Speaker:

David Dickson is Professor Emeritus of Modern History at Trinity College Dublin and has written very widely on the social and economic history of the Irish regions between the seventeenth and nineteenth centuries. Major books include *Old World Colony: Cork and South Munster 1630-1830* (Cork, 2005); *Dublin: The Making of a Capital* (London & Cambridge, MA, 2014); and *The First Irish Cities: An Eighteenth-Century Transformation* (New Haven & London, 2021).

He has published a short history of the Frost Famine – *Arctic Ireland: The Extraordinary Story of the Great Frost and Forgotten Famine of 1740-41* (Belfast, 1998).

Date: Wednesday, 24th July 2024 at 8pm

No. 4 of 9 Talks

Speaker: Ken O'Sullivan

Talk Title: INTO THE DEEP

Talk Description:

Renowned under-water cameraman and filmmaker, Ken O'Sullivan, will perform his unique live show INTO THE DEEP, outlining his incredible adventures exploring the North Atlantic Ocean, in Cultúrlann Sweeney.

The multi-award-winning Clare native will speak about his experiences exploring the stunning underwater world of the North Atlantic Ocean and encountering enormous whales and monstrous sharks.

Ken – who is also passionate about ocean conservation - will show videos and give insight and backstories into what it's like trying to navigate the North Atlantic Ocean to find and film some of the largest animals ever to have lived, including blue and fin whales, the largest animals ever to have lived.



Ken O'Sullivan

Ken will give a first-hand account of his unforgettable dive in 2016 when he was the first cameraman in the world to film and document a group of 35 thirty basking sharks engaged in a courtship ritual off the Clare coast.

The live show is a mix of film and stories from Ken's 18-year long career. He pays homage to his family's 250-year history on Fenit Island, Co. Kerry and the ancient maritime culture.



About the Speaker:

Ken O'Sullivan has been a documentary filmmaker, cameraman and ocean conservationist for eighteen years, producing natural history and creative documentaries all set in Ireland about the ocean, landscape and our ancient culture relating to these things in Ireland.

He has produced, directed and filmed natural history documentary series for RTÉ & TG4 and worked as a freelance cameraman / director for BBC NHU, CBC Canada, ITV and cinematographer for TV commercials and drama projects.

Ken is a passionate marine conservationist and heavily involved in conservation projects on sharks, skates and rays in Ireland, particularly in the highly unique Tralee Bay, Co. Kerry, where his family lived as fishermen and farmers for 250 years and where Ken spent the summers of his youth.

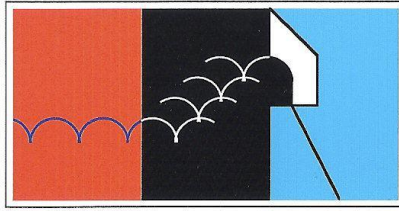


He works very hard to contribute to cetacean (whale & dolphin) research in Ireland and internationally, working closely with academic institutions and conservation organisations. He donated all of his work to education and his 2019 series Ireland's DEEP ATLANTIC is now part of the Junior Cycle Geography & Business Studies curriculum.

Ken's book: *"Stories From The Deep"* was critically acclaimed for its honesty and lyrical descriptions of our marine world.

Limerick Opera Festival

Opera for All



Kilkee Civic Trust

A summer's evening of Opera

Kilkee Bandstand 2024



Bandstand Kilkee - © Ruth Wood, Artist

Organised with the generous cooperation of
Mr Ger Reidy, Festival Director of Limerick Opera Festival and his team

On a nice summer's evening in late July 2024

A soloist or two & an accompanist

Performing Operatic Arias

(Date & details later)



Please bring your own rugs & deck chairs

Remember your picnic basket

Gather around the Bandstand



Date: Wednesday, 31st July 2024 at 8pm

No. 5 of 9 Talks

Speaker: Colm Liddy

Talk Title: A QUICK GALLOP THROUGH IRISH HISTORY
(10,000 YEARS SQUASHED INTO AN HOUR)

Talk Description:

Irish history is usually boiled down to just three things; Cromwell, The Famine and 1916.

In this talk, we'll take a quick look at all the other stuff that happened with an entertaining slideshow.



Colm Liddy



Man carved at a Holy Well, Green Road, New Quay

About the Speaker:

Colm Liddy is author of several books on local history.

He has a regular slot on Clare FM where he discusses the history of Co. Clare in ten-minute instalments.



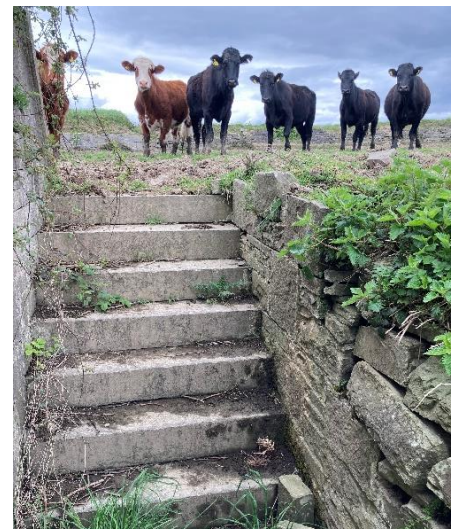
So far, he's only got as far as 1318 AD, so there's loads more to come.

He also posts about our history on Facebook/ X under the name 'Long Ago in County Clare'.

Shop at.... <https://www.shopinireland.ie/sellers/colm-liddy>



Seascape ~ © Vanessa Keane, Photographer



Cows at a fort in Labasheeda built to repel invasion by Napoleon

Date: Wednesday, 7th August 2024 at 8pm No. 6 of 9 Talks

Speaker: Fionnuala Walsh

Talk Title: Cappa to California, Swimming the Waters of the World

Talk Description:

Fionnuala grew up in Cappa, Kilrush where her love of swimming in the majestic River Shannon began. Blessed with stunning scenery around Cappa, her passion for swimming was fostered by the back drop of the Cliffs at Alyevaroo, Scatterry & Hog Islands, looking across at Co. Kerry, with the mouth of the Estuary and Loop Head in the distance.



Fionnuala Walsh



Early swimming days!

Fionnuala does not recall learning to swim:

“We just did, my two sisters and three brothers lived for our summers at Cappa. I grew to be an open water swimmer, though I never swam competitively as a child, or belonged to a club until much later, with Seaworld Masters in Lahinch, Limerick Masters and more recently Ennis Masters clubs.”

Fionnuala has been extremely fortunate to have lived and worked all over the globe and availed of any lake, sea, ocean or pool that she came across where she could swim safely.



Fionnuala had a childhood dream to swim the English Channel, in 2012 she made Channel Swimming history, but not in a way she would have wanted or ever dreamt of. In unprecedented circumstances her first attempt was aborted on safety grounds two hundred meters from the finish in France, because of a dense fog that enveloped the French coast line.

To quote: *Channel Swimming and Piloting Federation*, from October 2012:

“Real Heros Never Give Up”

When things don't go to plan, you have two choices: give up or try again. It's what one does with setbacks that makes us who we are, and this is where true heroes shine through.

This morning Fionnuala Walsh slipped into the cold Channel waters to complete her dream, which was dashed two months earlier by fog, a couple of hundred metres from French sand. She kept the swim low profile, but swam a brilliant swim today, and finished in 15 hours and 26 minutes.

Fionnuala is an example to us all. We all congratulate you wholeheartedly.

Surely the cruellest strokes of fate were reserved for Lucinda Bayliss, Colm Breathnach and Fionnuala Walsh. All three swam for 13 to 14 hours and were just a few hundred metres from the finish but none could land because the fog was so thick it was too dangerous to send them off towards the shore alone with a dinghy or canoe. Fionnuala returned on October 9 to cross in 15hr 26min. Hopefully, Colm and Lucinda will see it as unfinished business and will be back.



In this talk, Fionnuala will share personal insights of her many adventures, some heart-breaking moments, and entirely justifiable satisfaction with her success in Open Water Swimming over the last decades.

Source: Text on left ~ Kevin Murphy ~ *Swimming Times Magazine* ~ February 2013

About the Speaker:

Fionnuala Walsh has competed in countless swims along the Wild Atlantic Way mostly in counties Clare, Cork and Kerry. Her first international swims were Malta to Gozo 2009 and Queen of the Sea Lisbon 2011.

Fulfilling a lifelong ambition; Fionnuala was the first individual from Co. Clare and 15th Irish Female to swim the English Channel in 2012. A swim known as: *“The Everest of Open Water Swimming”*.

Following what proved to be a roller coaster journey, Fionnuala became the first Irish Female and 89th individual in the world to complete the **Triple Crown of Open Water Swimming** by successfully completing the English Channel 2012, the Catalina Channel 2013 and Manhattan Island Swim 2014.



In October 2015, Fionnuala set a new Irish record for the *Strait of Gibraltar Swim* (14.4 km) in 3 Hours and 30 minutes, an accolade she very much enjoyed until August 2023.

Together with Ned Denison and Liz Fry, both International Marathon Swimming Hall of Fame (IMSHOF), Fionnuala completed the first ever group marathon: Anti-clockwise around Anacapa Island (Santa Barbara, California 18km) in November 2016.

Amongst her many Awards:

- 2012 Irish Long Distance Swimming Association: Female Swimmer of the Year
- 2012 Clare County Council: Cissie Roughan Award
- 2013 Channel Swimming & Piloting Federation JLDC award for:
The most successful swim against all odds
- 2015 Swim Ireland: Open Water Swimmer of the Year
- 2020 Clare Echo: Unsung Sporting Hero Award
- 2021 Inducted into: Ireland Marathon Swimming Hall of Fame



For outstanding accomplishments and achievements in the sport of Marathon Swimming

Date: Wednesday, 14th August 2024 at 8pm

No. 7 of 9 Talks

Speaker: Ger Kelly MVB, Dip ECVS
Talk Title: From Kilkee to Tipperary:
A Veterinary and Sporting Story



Ger Kelly

Talk Description:

Ger Kelly will tell a personal story about growing up in Kilkee and how the magic of his childhood years led him to where he is today.



Well known for his sportsmanship, both on and off the field, we are certain to hear about his County Clare GAA accomplishments.

Inevitably; the question will be asked: How does a young man growing up in West Clare develop a passion for Veterinary Medicine and particularly a love for horses?

Mankind enjoys unique and special bonds with both horses and dogs. It is frequently a debate as to which is first amongst equals!



Nowadays, Ger Kelly is a Consultant Equine Surgeon at Fethard Equine Hospital. His work involves everything from routine to complex surgeries.

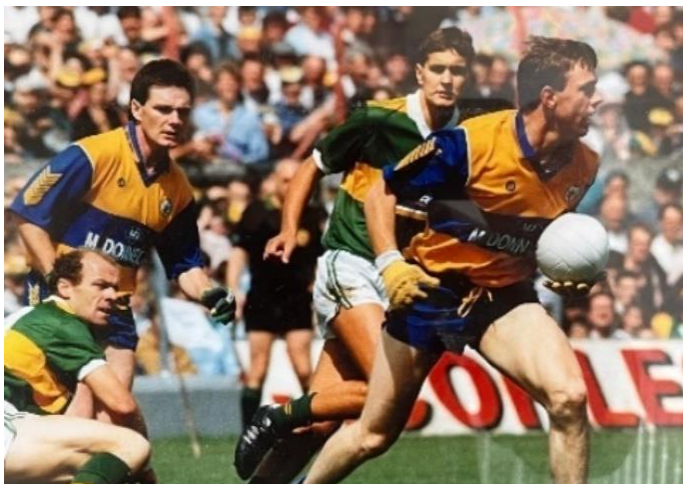
Established in 2005; Fethard Equine Hospital is a National and International service provider for the equine industry. Several large stud farms and training centres are local to the Hospital.



*Arthroscopic Surgery
In a horse*

About the Speaker:

Growing up in Kilkee, the youngest of seven children on the family farm, Ger Kelly played football for



In action ~ during the 1992 historic Munster Final vs Kerry

St. Senan's Kilkee and was fortunate enough to represent County Clare at Minor, Under 21 and also at Senior level.

Ger Kelly attended the Boys' National School in Kilkee. He received his secondary education, as a boarder, at St. Flannan's College, Ennis, from 1981 to 1987.

Later, Ger undertook his studies in Veterinary Medicine at University College Dublin and graduated from there in 1992.

Returning home to Kilkee; Ger Kelly joined the local well-known Veterinary Practice: Nolan & Malone.

In those early years, his role was that of an assistant. After a few years, when Paddy Nolan retired circa 1995, Ger became a partner with Tommy Malone.

Forever in pursuit of professional development and excellence; in 1998 Ger Kelly became a Resident in Equine Surgery in University College Dublin.

At the completion of the Residency Training Programme, during 2002 / 2003, Ger was a Statutory Lecturer in Large Animal Surgery.

In 2003, after completing his Surgical Residency in UCD, Ger successfully passed the certifying examination and was awarded the **Diplomate in Equine Surgery** by the European College of Veterinary Surgeons.

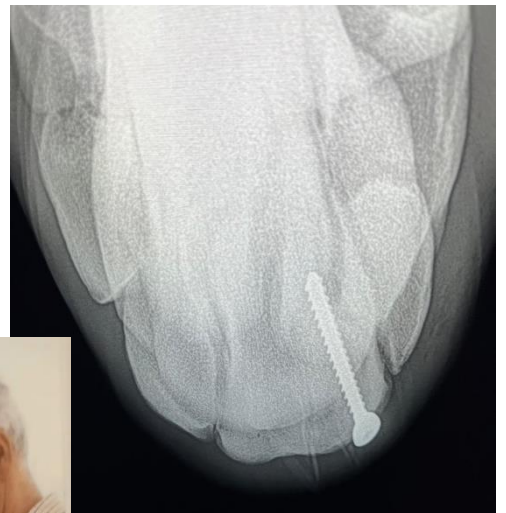


His role at UCD necessitated him leaving the “home veterinary practice” in 2000. Then, he worked for a year and a half in Lisadell Equine Hospital in Navan. Subsequently; Ger Kelly joined Fethard Equine Hospital where he is currently employed.



Pictures Left & Right

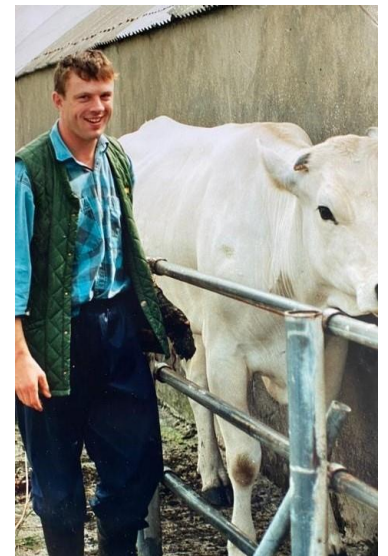
Repair Fracture in a Horse's Knee



*Paddy Nolan, MVB MRCVS
A Legend
of the
Veterinary Profession*

*Photograph provided courtesy of the
Nolan Family.*

*Pictured also, left to right, are:
Frankie McNamara & Kevin Hynes*

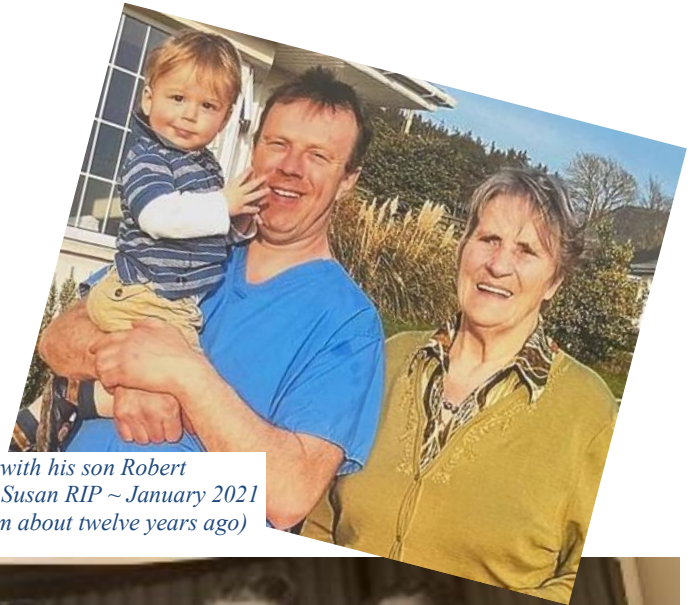


*A younger Ger Kelly ~ when working for
Paddy Nolan, as a Vet in Kilkee*



*Pictured left to right: Ger Kelly & Ger Crotty
Performing an Airway Surgery on a Horse in June 2024*

*Ger Crotty, Veterinary Nurse / Assistant,
has worked with Ger Kelly, while he was practicing
in Kilkee, Co. Clare
and for the last nineteen years
at Fethard Equine Hospital in Fethard, Co. Tipperary*



*Ger Kelly with his son Robert
& his late mother Susan RIP ~ January 2021
(Photo dates from about twelve years ago)*



*1992.
Gerry Kelly is Presented with the cup by Brendan Vaughan Chairman of the Co. Board
Helping Gerry is Niamh Fitzpatrick.*



Strand Races, Kilkee in 2009 ~ © William Glynn, Photographer

Speaker: Ruairí Ó Conchúir

Talk Title: Water Is Life:
Protecting Local Waterbodies
& All The Life They Support

Talk Description:

This illustrated talk will highlight the critical role local water bodies play in supporting all forms of life, including human life and wellbeing.

Local water bodies (streams, rivers, lakes, estuaries, and coastal waters) support a disproportionate amount of biodiversity and habitats, given their relative size and abundance.



Ruairí Ó Conchúir



Aille River ~ April 2022

The better the physical condition of the river, the better the supporting instream and riparian (or riverbank) habitat, the better will be the water quality of that river to support all forms of life.

Changes to the physical habitat of a river, combined with pollution

pressures, impact on the food base of the river and the life it can support. The greater the level of impact on a river, from source to sea, the greater the level of impact on biological communities.



Blue Damselfly - Important Wetland Species

This talk will unpack the life that exists in local waterbodies, water quality and the role of citizen science monitoring. It will illustrate; by presenting local case studies, how local waterbodies function as ecosystems. It will outline how local waterbodies provide a range of ecological services and critically water for human consumption. The talk will also review the practical steps and measures we all can take to help, protect, restore, and enhance local waterbodies.



About the Speaker:

Ruairí Ó Conchúir, has for more than 25 years worked in the field of integrated river catchment management, farming for conservation and community-based land reform and rural development.



West Clare Coastline

Having spent a decade in Southern Africa, working mostly in land reform, he returned to County Clare in 2001. Since then, he has worked largely in conservation management related projects, including over 10 years in two multi award winning EU LIFE projects, BurrenLIFE – Farming for Conservation in the Burren and in managing the MulkearLIFE project – focused on integrated catchment management on the Lower Shannon SAC (Mulkear Catchment).

He designed and developed the Inagh European Innovation Partnership (EIP) with local farmers in the Upper Inagh River Catchment. This project was focused on farmer-led biodiversity enhancement in a farm, forestry and raised bog area to address habitat fragmentation and enhance farm, bog and riparian biodiversity and improve water quality.

He is the Community Water Officer with the Local Authority Waters Programme (LAWPRO) for Clare, Limerick, and Tipperary.

He lives in the Burren and has a keen interest in environmental education as well as birdwatching and landscape and wildlife photography.



Lower Shannon SAC



River Water crowfoot



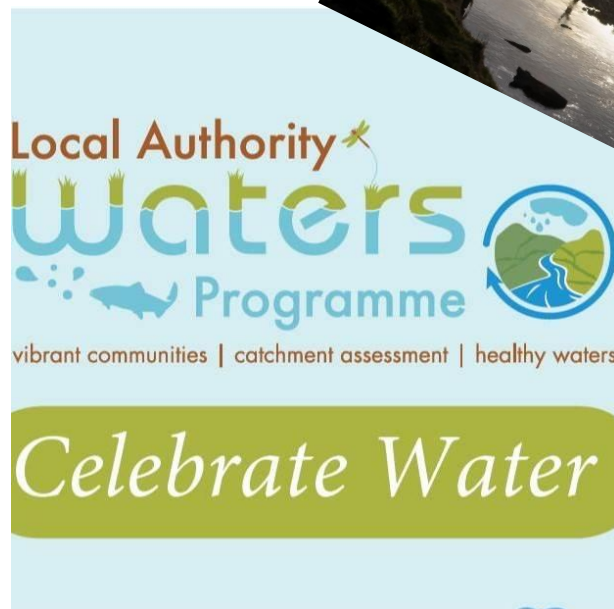
Dipper



Annagh River West Clare



West Clare Coastline



Date: Wednesday, 28th August 2024 at 8pm

No. 9 of 9 Talks

Speaker: Dr Robert Brown

Talk Title: The life and times of Father Meehan and The Little Ark

Talk Description:

Recent grant funding worth €25,000 was awarded by: The Heritage Council, for the restoration of the windows of The Little Ark.



From being born in Ennis and moving to Cross after his mother died while still a young child, to being educated at Ennis and Maynooth, the young Michael Meehan had a very varied early life.



Dr Robert Brown

Later, after ordination, Father Meehan spent his early years as a Curate, which saw his eventual move to Carrigaholt as Parish Priest.

His courageous stand against poverty and disease is noteworthy. The idea for The Little Ark came out of the conflict during Father Meehan's famous six-year battle with Marcus Keane, while attempting to get a site for a Catholic Church in Kilbaha.



Father Michael Meehan

Onwards to the USA, fundraising for his new Church in Kilbaha, along with funding for schools, and his eventual death in Limerick in 1878.



He was a politician, a man of letters, a patriot, a leader in the Temperance Movement, song writer, band maker & poet. These are just a few of this incredible man's achievements. However, he was, first and foremost, a man of God.

People gathered around the Little Ark for Mass



The Little Ark on the sea shore



*The Church
Father Meehan built
:
The Church of
The Little Ark
Kilbaha, Co. Clare*

About the Speaker:

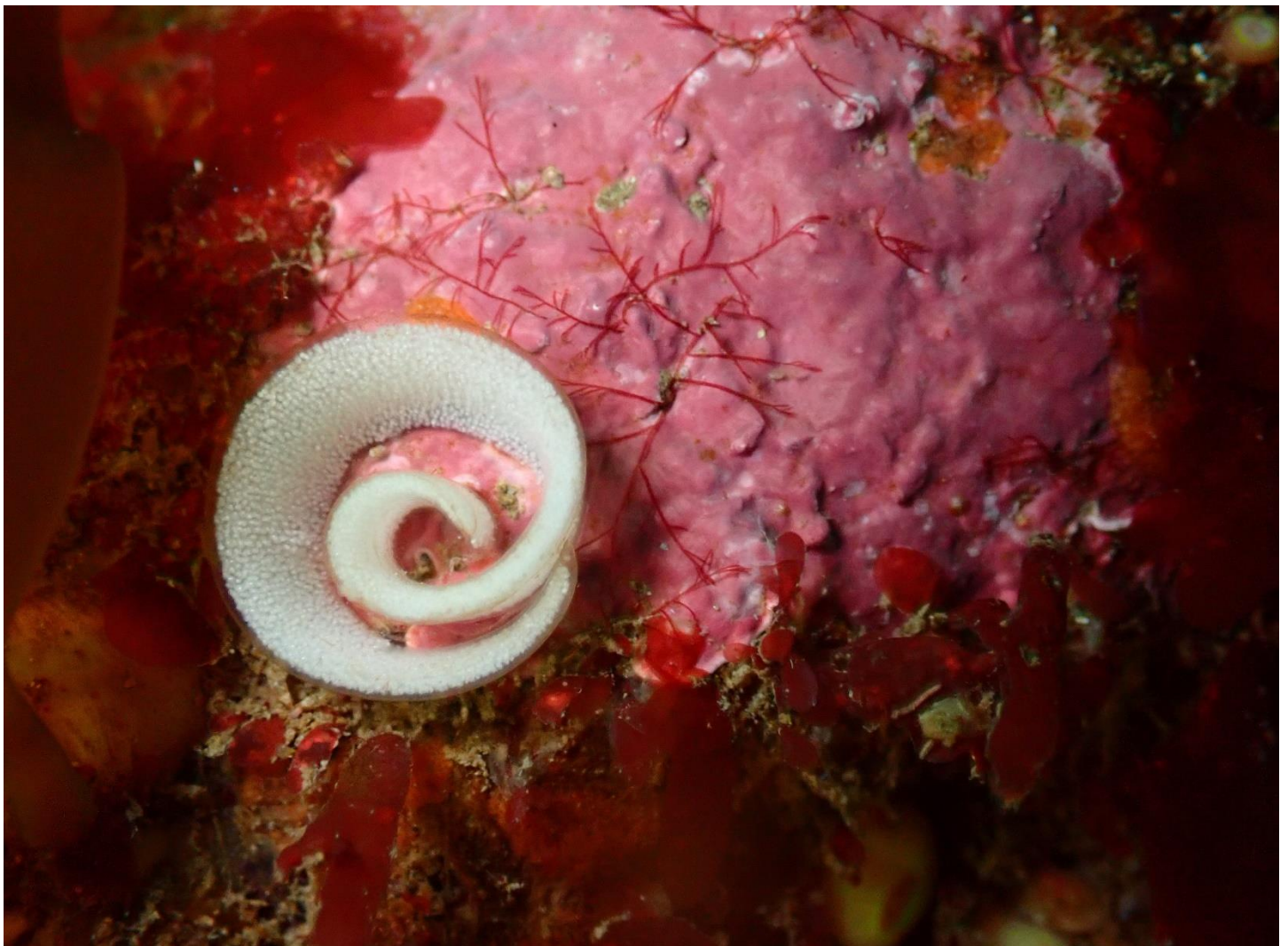
My grandparents farmed in Querrin, Co. Clare, where my mother Eileen Counihan was born in 1921. It was the place that I loved most as a child and now I live there full-time.

Born in Limerick; I became a Dentist in the late 1970s, when the only option at that time was emigration.

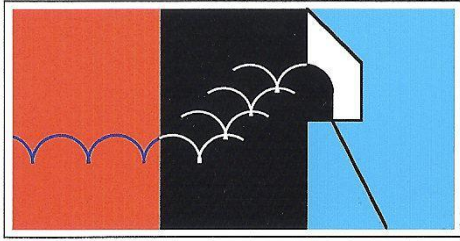
I moved to the lovely county of Hampshire in England and spent my whole professional career in the same practice for over 35 years.

I have four lovely amazing children all of whom think and feel they are Irish as we spent every Summer in Ireland and exposed them to all international Irish sport.

*The Little Ark
may be viewed at
The Church of Our Lady Star of the Sea
in Kilbaha, West Clare*



Nudibranch Eggs ~ © Vanessa Keane, Photographer

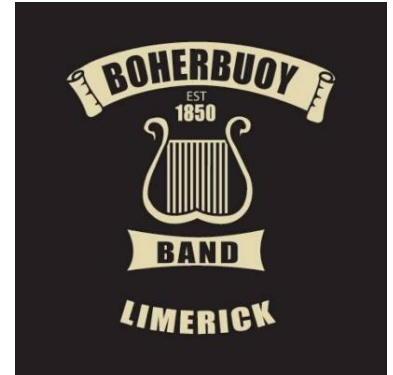


Kilkee Civic Trust Music - 2024

Kilkee Civic Trust

Boherbuoy Brass & Reed Band

Kilkee Chamber of Commerce & Kilkee Bay Swim & Kilkee Civic Trust have joined forces to invite *Boherbuoy Brass & Reed Band* to play on the day of the Annual Bay Swim.



Event Details:

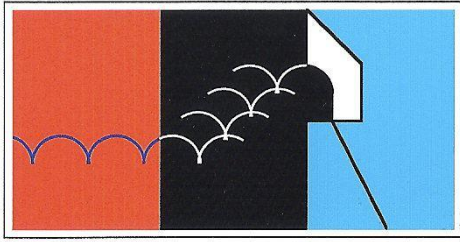
Saturday or Sunday – To Be Confirmed / Possibly on Annual Bay Swim Day



- Performances at Kilkee Bandstand to coincide with the timing of the Small Bay & Big Bay Swims.
- Exact Band performance “day & times” will be posted nearer the event as they are entirely tide and weather dependent.



Boherbuoy Brass & Reed Band at Kilkee Bandstand ~ Saturday, 19th August 2017



Kilkee Civic Trust

Kilkee Civic Trust - Music - 2024

Ennis Brass Band

Kilkee Chamber of Commerce & Kilkee Civic Trust
have joined forces to invite
"Ennis Brass Band"
to perform at Kilkee.



Date: On a Sunday in July or August
Exact Date - To Be Confirmed - later

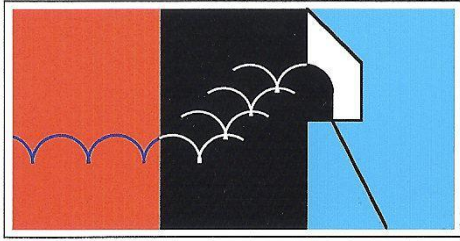
Event Details:

- Venue: Kilkee Church & Bandstand
- The Band will participate by joining the Church Choir and playing during the 11am Sunday Mass at St. Senan's Church.
- Then; from Kilkee Church, (after 11am Mass), the Band will Play & March, via O'Curry St. to the Bandstand where the music will continue.
- As always; Kilkee Chamber of Commerce & Kilkee Civic Trust wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of our Parish Priest Fr Gerry Kenny, and the Church Choir, with this annual event.



*Ennis Brass Band
Marching down O'Curry St., Kilkee
and performing at Kilkee Bandstand*





Kilkee Civic Trust

Diary Date!



*Kilkee Arts Festival
September 2024*

Charlotte Brontë

Friday, 13th September & Saturday, 14th September

Cultúrlann Sweeney, O'Connell Street, Kilkee V15 P960

Programme Details will be announced shortly

