

N THE CORK FOLKLORE PROJECT WWS

Newsletter of The Cork Folklore Project • Issue 01 • Summer 2016

Cork Folklor(e)news

Our e-newsletter aims to keep readers up to date on the ongoing work of the Cork Folklore Project in recording, archiving and sharing the memories and folklore of Cork.

The Cork Folklore Project was founded in 1996 as a non-profit research and public oral history archive with material collected by, from and for the community of Cork City. The project operates with the support of Northside Community Enterprises, University College Cork Department of Folklore & Ethnology and the Department of Social Protection. In twenty years, we have recorded the memories, testimony and folklore of 573 people, amounting to over 700 hours of recorded material. Although limited by resources, CFP makes every effort to ensure this material is available in a variety of formats.

Visit [Cork Folklore Project Website](#) for more



From Left To Right: CFP Researchers Michael Moore, Laura Murphy, Tomás Mac Conmara (Project Manager), John Spillane, Tara Arpaia, Tim McCarthy.

'Fair play to the Cork Folklore Project' John Spillane visits CFP

Acclaimed Cork singer-songwriter John Spillane visited the office of CFP recently. Spillane spent time speaking with our researchers and was struck by the depth work involved in the day to day running of the project.

'On a recent visit to the Cork Folklore Project in Farranferris it was lovely to see the patience and respect that was shown to elderly Cork people who are the carriers of a wealth of stories, customs and folklore. I was struck by the warmth that was shown to the ordinary people of Cork. Fair play to the Cork Folklore Project'.

- John Spillane

Cork Folklore Project celebrates 20 Years

2016 marks the 20th anniversary of the Cork Folklore Project. In that time, the co-operation and support of the people of Cork has been a critical factor in enabling us to achieve the levels of research and outputs that we have over the last twenty years since our foundation.

'I have been immensely impressed by the warm and friendly atmosphere with which the work still proceeds and the pride which people take in what they continue to achieve in relation to honouring and safeguarding the authentic record of creative local tradition'.

- CFP Founder Dr. Gearóid Ó Cruailaich.

'What could have been a brief experimental collaboration between the people of the Northside and UCC Department of Folklore & Ethnology, has become an established entity, recognized not just in Cork but nationally, and even internationally, as an innovative and cutting edge community oral history project'.

- Former CFP Manager Mary O'Driscoll

'Our collective struggle proved us right. It is therefore timely to celebrate this achievement and thank all who have contributed to the Project, now successfully expanding its primary boundaries to city and county'.

- CFP Founder Dr. Marie-Annick Desplanques

It is very unusual for a community-based urban folklore project to last twenty years, and to grow and develop to such an extent. Now we have an archive of 600 audio and video interviews spanning that time, thanks to the support of the people of Cork. What will we achieve in the next twenty years?

- CFP Research Director Dr. Cliona O'Carroll

Exchange with Polish Oral Historian



From Left To Right: CFP Researchers Michael Moore, Tara Arpaia, Dermot Casey, Marta Kurkowska Budzan, Cliona O' Carroll, Gearóid Ó Cruaíoch, Louise Madden O' Shea, Laura Murphy, Penny Johnston, Dr. Tomás Mac Conmara (Project Manager).

Dr. Marta Kurkowska-Budzan, Assistant Professor at Institute of History, Jagiellonian University in Krakow, spent time with CFP in April 2016 during which she presented on her research and experience of oral history in Poland. Dr. Kurkowska-Budzan also heard from CFP researchers about the work in the project as well as the nature of oral history research in Ireland.

'Besides the fact I enjoyed the meeting for simply good and friendly non-official atmosphere, what struck me most - and was a great lesson to me - was CFP team's profile: people of different background, not only folklorists or historians which I had expected to meet. I think this creates an intellectually fruitful environment and gives the Project the strength of diverse perspectives on both research and social goals'.

- Dr. Marta Kurkowska-Budzan

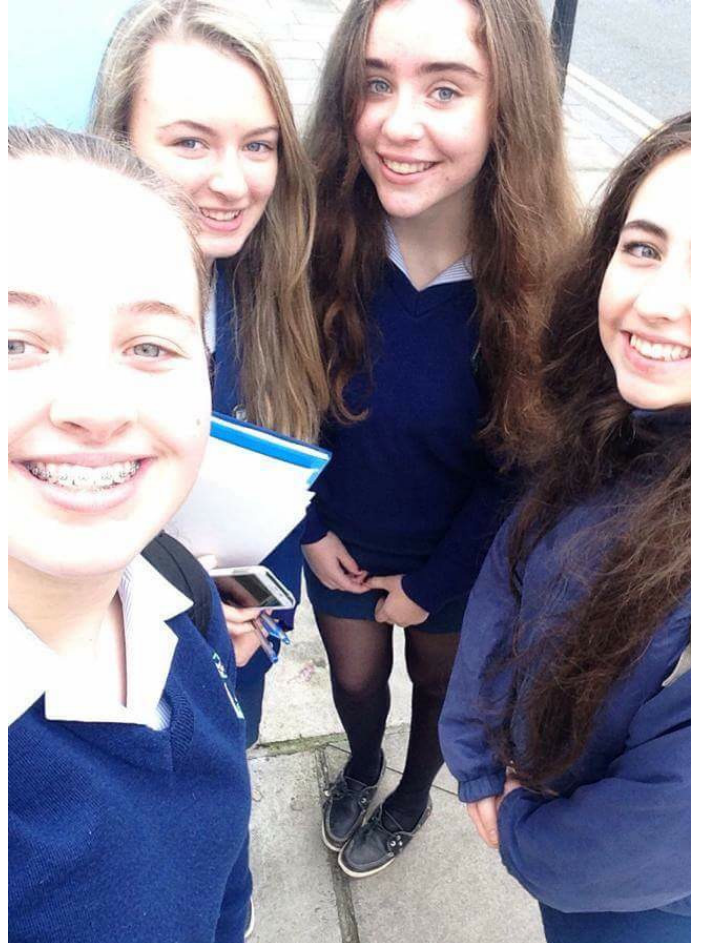
Cork City LGBT



Awareness Week

Cork Folklore Project's LGBT Collection was featured in Cork City LGBT Awareness Week 2016. This exhibition is based on the LGBT oral history collection undertaken by the Cork Folklore Project. The project was led by Dermot Casey and Steven Dee and contains over twenty-five hours of audio, based on the testimony of seventeen interviewees. See more at [LGBT Collection](#).

Discover Cork:Schools' Heritage Project 2015/16



Schools' Heritage Project Team from Scoil Mhuire

The Cork Folklore Project frequently receives enquiries from primary and secondary school students regarding our collection as well as local and oral history. In 2016, we worked with students from Scoil Mhuire who took part in the Discover Cork: Schools' Heritage Project 2015/16. Dr. Cliona O'Carroll, Research Director with CFP, helped the pupils with their research into the Sunbeam textile company, utilising material from the CFP Archive. The team, pictured above, were later awarded **First Prize** in the Cork City Leaving Certificate Group Category.

'Overall I had a really fantastic time taking part in the project. I learned a lot about the area of Blackpool. I also made fantastic new friends through our project. I will always have fond memories of doing this project.'

- Leah Soden, Scoil Mhuire Team

New Project Manager

Tomás Mac Conmara was appointed in January as the new Manager of the Cork Folklore Project, taking over from Mary O'Driscoll, who has led the project for the last fifteen years. Tomás is an oral historian from county Clare and has previously worked as a Heritage Officer and led the foundation and development of Clare's oral history and folklore group, Cuimhneamh an Chláir. In 2015 he was awarded a Doctorate at the University of Limerick for his exploration of the social memory and oral history of the Irish War of Independence.

New Staff Member Profile

Name: Jamie Furey

Age: 32

From: Youghal

Main Interests in Folklore? In the everyday. Peoples everyday lives, whether it is the past or present.

Aims: To utilize and expand on the knowledge and skills I ascertained through my previous three years studying folklore and history at UCC, with a view to furthering my studies and put theory into practice.

On interviewing: Seeing the beauty and value in the stories of peoples everyday lives be they past or present.

Interests and Hobbies: Walks on the beach (just joking)

Favourite thing about Cork? Fitzy's on a Summer day.

Least favourite thing about Cork? The rain.

Favourite Cork saying or slang? 'Join out', a Youghal saying, means to leave a club or a group.

If the Stones Could Speak Launch



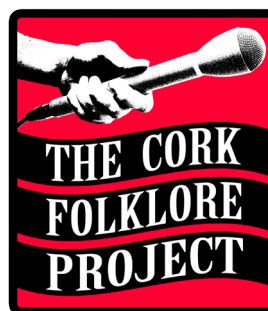
'Cork Shawlies' at the launch of *If the Stones Could Speak* by the Cork Folklore Project in February 2016. Watch *If the Stones Could Speak* here [Click Here](#)



The Archive

Our annual journal

The Archive, our annual journal has explored Cork Folklore over two decades. The journal is distributed for free each year, as a way of giving back to the people of Cork and of disseminating the material we have collected. A wide variety of contributors from local historians to academics help to make the journal increasingly successful each year. Importantly, researchers in CFP contribute articles each year based on their own research as well as material in our collection. The 20th edition will be published in before autumn 2016. Find out more about [The Archive](#).



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