

NEWS

THE CORK
FOLKLORE
PROJECT

Newsletter of The Cork Folklore Project

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Hello Friends!



All Photographs of the Night in the North Chapel by Darragh Murphy

Feature

CORK FOLKLORE PROJECT MEMORY NIGHT AT THE NORTH CHAPEL.

We celebrated twenty years of the Cork Folklore Project in style last February on Lá Fhéile Bríde. Over 200 people filled the parish hall and offices of the North Chapel to view the exhibitions showcasing the breadth of material that the Project has collected since its inception. The centrepiece of the evening was a selection of audio recordings from the project's oral history archive presented by the Project Manager Tomás Mac Conmara. These vivid and compelling stories of Christy Ring, Tomás Mac Curtain, Frank O'Farrell and the Stonemasons moved the audience to laughter and even a few tears. Speeches followed by Fr John O'Donovan of NCE, Dr Stiofán Ó Cadhla Head of Folklore Department at UCC, and friend of the project Noel O'Mahony. Cork writer and special guest Cónal Creedon further entertained the crowd with his witty recollections and a reading of one of his short stories. Cónal also underlined the value of CFP for his research over the years and encouraged all in attendance to support the Project. It was a source of great pride and delight to see so many friends, former colleagues, supporters and new faces with such interest and enthusiasm for the Project and its goals. Many thanks to all who attended and helped make the celebration a success.

Follow the link to listen to a recording of the speeches and audio presentation from the night.

Feature: Recording Extract



CFP Team members regularly conduct digitally recorded interviews focused on aspects of Cork folklore both past and present, with younger and older people from Cork. In this transcribed segment, Sean Lane remembers his fathers shop on Blarney Street.

Interviewee: Sean Lane

Interviewer: Breda Sheehan

Recorded: 5th August 2010

“

We had a shop down by the school then for years as well. When my dad retired from Capquinn and we had a grocery and provisions and vegetables and fresh meats which was his speciality where he had his pickle barrel out the back, the meats would come in fresh, the offals now and the backbones and then you'd hear a poor auld shawlie coming in "Mr Lane will you put it into the barrel until tomorrow for me" you know, "I will girl" you know. The couple of offal bones for thruppence or four pence in old money. They'd go out with a mountain between curly gree, a half weight of potatoes and a load of meat and that would be one and six. Jesus they'd be eating, they'd be sucking the bones dry of course. But there was great big meat on them at the time, you'd get nothing in them now with the great big machinery you see, but they'd be eating and drinking the bones that time now, and they'd play the mouth organ with the pigs tail you see, but they were fabulous times. I'm glad to say I lived in the heart of all those things and it just happened they were part of my household, and that's the way we lived and lived in a small house.

”

Cork Folklore Project Wins International Award.



CFP Project Manager Tomas Mac Conmara with Victoria Denoon and Ruairí O'Mahony From UMass Lowell who visited the project in April to announce the award.

The Cork Folklore Project has recently been granted the University of Massachusetts President's Award (Sustainability Grants Programme). CFP will work in collaboration with local groups in Lowell, Massachusetts on Landscape of Memory, a project which will explore both the River Lee in Cork and the Merrimac River in Lowell, through a series of oral history interviews following similar themes on each side of the Atlantic.



Ballyphehane Oral History Project

Our on-going oral history project is going from strength to strength. Over the past nine months we have collected some great meories from the locality: stay tuned for futher updates.

Feature: Westgate Foundation Project



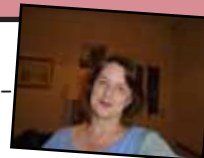
Some of the Westgate Participants. Tony, Denis, Felix and Biddy.

The Westgate Foundation Project has continued with focus groups and interviews. We are delighted with the rapport which has developed with the wonderful people who sat down and shared their stories with us. Our regulars reminisced on things such as old Christmas traditions, supernatural beliefs, and cooking on the bastible: a cast iron pot which was used over a fire. One contributor, Felix recalls a story about a boy making his first communion. He had recently returned from America with his family, so was not in tune with local teachings. The priest asked him who Jesus Christ was, the boy stood deep in thought for a while. There was a silence as the boy pondered the question. The priest asked again, and finally the boy exclaimed, "Bloody hell, I never heard of the guy", to much amusement in the church.

New Staff Profiles

Name: Mary Horgan

From: North Mall originally - now the Mardyke.



Main Interest in Folklore:

How learning about Folklore and Folklife of a particular community can enrich people's lives.

Aims: To develop skills gained during recent studies at UCC and CSN and to try to make my own contribution to the Cork Folklore Projects important work.

Interests: Art History and Archaeology - I enjoy visiting galleries, museums and archaeological sites.

Favourite Thing About Cork: Probably the people.

Least Favourite Thing: Nothing - as a proud Cork person, I probably wouldn't say if there was.

Favourite Cok saying or Slang: 'Take a sponce at'

C o n d o l e n c e s .

We would like to send our condolences to the families of Bridie Hartnett and John Chute on their passing. Both Bridie and John were interviewed by the CFP in the last year. Bridie, in relation to her life growing up in Inchi-geelagh in West Cork. John was interviewed about his life in Ballyphehane, and as a pipe major in many a great pipe band. We are grateful to have their memories in our collection.



The Cork Folklore Project

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