

CLOUGHJORDAN ECOVILLAGE

building • sustainable • community



Sustainable Projects Ireland CLG Year in Review: 2021



**ÉICEAPHOBAL
CHLOCH SHIURDÁIN**
ag tógáil • comhlúadar • inbhuanaithe

www.thevillage.ie

Year in Review

Over the course of 2021, successive strains of Covid-19 have continued to create uncertainty in local, national and global economies and the upheaval of societal norms prevailed, impacting general well-being and community cohesion.

Opportunities to connect and experience culture and community in person were few and far between for many and outdoor opportunities offered by the Ecovillage's amphitheatre, Apple Festival, allotments area, sensory gardens, dark sky bowl, amenity field and 'natureways' provided sustenance and nourishment for many living in the local vicinity.

The Ecovillage's online reach went from strength to strength with excellent attendance of monthly members meetings, Deep Listening webinars and educational events, including IEN's Biodiversity Week. However, the majority of bookings for educational visits and tours were cancelled due to renewed Covid-19 restrictions and ongoing uncertainty.

Despite the noticeable lack of educational visits, Sustainable Projects Ireland (SPI) has had a very busy year. This included launching a 5 year Roadmap; a new web-site; participating in several national and international education and research projects; working closely with the local authority, Dark Sky group and lighting technicians on ground breaking eco-friendly street lighting solutions; meeting with the Minister of State for Housing and Planning and Irish Water to address the impact of ongoing wastewater treatment issues for CloughJordan and developing structures and processes to embed and continually improve on delivery of governance responsibilities.

During 2021 it also became apparent that SPI's IT systems were presenting serious limitations to communications, data storage and good governance, triggering an initial review of the issues.

SPI's five year Roadmap was officially launched in the first quarter, with full membership and key stakeholder backing. The Roadmap was the culmination of 18 months planning, investigations and a membership survey to identify and deliver five strategic goals between 2021 and 2025.

A detailed project plan was developed to deliver goal one of the Roadmap: 'Completion of the Ecovillage,' encompassing remediation of infrastructure, substantive reduction of liabilities and build out of the Ecovillage. Earlier in the year, meetings held with the council's planning department were positive and the path to gaining planning for 50 more homes became a real possibility, in times when homes are desperately needed to meet demand and sustain a vibrant local economy.

In the Autumn of 2021, a critical milestone in the plan hit a major obstacle. Costly hydrogeological tests had revealed that conditions within the Ecovillage's curtilage were unlikely to support an on-site waste water solution at the scale required. Furthermore, a meeting with Irish Water's asset team identified that it would take over 5 years to upgrade CloughJordan's town plant, a precursor to enabling new building. By the close of 2021 the majority of workstreams relating to the Ecovillage's completion plan had been paused pending a full review of the strategy. Despite this, good progress had been made on other key workstreams required to bring the Ecovillage infrastructure up to standard.

The last quarter of 2021 brought with it mixed feelings for the members and residents of the Ecovillage. For some, the relaxing of Covid restrictions increased optimism for a return to more community and 'in person' experiences through events, tours, educational visits and meetings. A return to pre-Covid demand for educational and company site visits would greatly enhance SPI's educational offer once again, enable paid staff to be reinstated and bring increased financial stability to SPI and our local partners and suppliers.

However, the news that significant investment of time and money into on-site wastewater treatment had not yielded a solution was a great disappointment to many. The formation of a CloughJordan wastewater action group and a call from many members of SPI to look at piloting more innovative solutions to a grave national issue (inadequate wastewater treatment capacity and restriction of housing development) is testimony that the pioneering spirit of the community lives on and sets the scene for 2022.



Governance

Over the course of the year the Board met fortnightly to attend to governance issues. Two AGMS were held in 2021 to bring this process back on track and reports were issued to members on a monthly basis, in addition to two in-depth presentation and consultation sessions with members on the Roadmap and Completion Plan.

The Board was able to draw upon various sources of expertise on the Charities Code and identified that there was still some ground to cover to bring the organisation into full compliance with the code.

Key issues included a lack of awareness of the code across all SPI groups, staff and membership and a lack of volunteer capacity to implement the necessary changes at the required pace. The period also saw a change of Company Secretary, leading to the role being taken on by a Board Trustee.

A review of provisions for health and safety commenced in 2021 and various improvement measures were introduced. Delays to the renewal of licences highlighted the need to reconvene a licence review body and a clearer process for all stakeholders.

In recognition of the substantial workload facing the Board, a restructure took place towards the end of 2021. Sub-committees (non-decision making) were planned to help accelerate the establishment of improved practice in key areas of governance, including health and safety, 'financial strategy and audit' and licensing.

Finances and Staffing

The paid part time role of Financial Administrator continued throughout 2021, enabling SPI to deliver more effectively on this function and to continue to address legacy issues and increase the transparency and regularity of financial reporting.

Progression and management of education and research activities continued through SPI's VERT (Village Education, Research and Training) group led by the Education Officer on a voluntary basis due to the impacts of Covid.

In accordance with SPI's five year plan, the principal bank loan was repaid in 2021, enabling a step change in SPI's operational outlook and a greater percentage of income to be re-invested in increasing the charity's capacity and work going forward. Remaining funds arising from a previous settlement (in favour of SPI) were ring-fenced for workstreams in the Ecovillage completion plan (activities relating to site development and remediation). Thanks to the curtailment of the high interest loan, an increase in core funding, immense voluntary efforts and successful partnerships and projects, SPI completed a challenging year in a stable financial position. However, this additional voluntary capacity is not expected to be available once Covid restrictions and supports come to an end.

SPI will be seeking to reinstate the paid Education Officer role in early 2022 and has identified the need for a Roadmap Manager, to support development, co-ordination and implementation of the plan. The year has also highlighted an urgent need for a comprehensive review and overhaul of ITC and data storage and for ongoing critical functions to not rely on our volunteer base possessing the necessary time and skills.

Work undertaken by the Completion Plan working groups (Wastewater Treatment, Sales Readiness, Finance and Risk and Site Resolution Works) were paused in quarter 4 pending a review of the impact of not finding a resolution to the wastewater treatment issue within the given timescales.

New agreements with remaining loanstock holders could not be progressed as planned, due to prolonged investigations into the Wastewater Treatment solution and the uncertainty surrounding this.

A new fundraising role was set-up on a voluntary basis and will be piloted in 2022 to increase SPI's engagement with relevant funding streams and help to streamline SPI's internal processes.



Infrastructure and Services

Cloughjordan Ecovillage Service Company CLG provides estate management services such as landscape maintenance, operation of the wastewater treatment plant and district heating system to the Ecovillage.

Several online meetings between the Boards of SPI and the Service Company took place and mainly focused on the relevant workstreams of the Ecovillage Completion Plan (infrastructure development and repair) and potential financial arrangements relating to future site sales.

Discussions were paused towards the end of 2021 pending a review of the wastewater treatment issue.



As 2021 began, the extent to which Covid restrictions would allow SPI to move back to holding educational events in person in the Ecovillage was unclear. The initial focus therefore was on further extending the on-line offerings which had been developed following the advent of Covid in 2020. These included the innovative *Deep Listening* webinar series and on-line modules.

Other key objectives for 2021 included; to advance plans to develop the Coach House as an SPI office and meeting space and as a venue for education; to conduct a new tour guide recruitment process, train all new and existing guides on the new guidelines and the updated tour guide manual. This would prepare SPI to recommence weekend tours when restrictions permitted; to continue work on the Erasmus + funded iACT international partnership; and to upgrade, improve and consolidate the Ecovillage website to promote SPI's activities and increase awareness of the project.

Key Achievements of 2021

Educational Events: Income to the Ecovillage

SPI hosted 25 educational events over the course of 2021 attended virtually by over 700 people and with 170 visitors attending events in person. Net Income through educational activities and events totalled €8,682. A further donation of €4,000 was secured through the delivery of an online workshop for employees of Guidewire. Gross income from the programme totalled €21,609 and most of the supplier expenditure out of this income supported local Cloughjordan residents and initiatives.

IEN Biodiversity Week 2021

As part of Biodiversity Week 2021 SPI produced three online events. All three events were broadcast live during the week and are now available to view on our website. In total the recordings have been viewed over 1000 times and all have been very positively received.

The Deep Listening Series:

Following the success of the Deep Listening series in 2020, SPI hosted three additional webinars in the series over the course of 2021. All three events are available to view on the Ecovillage website;

Deep Listening Episode 4 - What is the relevance of Ecovillages in these Challenging Times? Conversation with Karen Litfin, Julie Locket and Jonathan Dawson.

Deep Listening Episode 5 - Ecovillages and the Low-Carbon Transition. With speakers Anitra Nelson, Duncan Stewart, Sean McCabe and Anna Kovasna.

Deep Listening Episode 6 - Beyond CoP26: Identifying Transformative Pathways. With speakers Sadhb O'Neill, Sol Trumbo Vila, Pauliina Helle and Eileen Brannigan.



Just a Just Transition? Cloughjordan Ecovillage, Agri-Food and Rural Ireland.

In October 2021 SPI received funding from the agriculture policy fund of the IEN for a project titled: *Just a Just Transition? Cloughjordan Ecovillage, Agri-Food and Rural Ireland*. There are three objectives to this event and report, as submitted by SPI. First, to showcase and learn from Cloughjordan Ecovillage in a Just Transition framework; second, to learn what Just Transition really means in practical terms for the farming community; third, to understand what Just Transition might mean for rural Ireland. A total of €4,000 funding was awarded and the project will commence in 2022.

The M2M Solidarity Project

Cloughjordan Ecovillage was one of ten projects from around the world invited by the Transnational Institute (TNI) in Amsterdam to take part in an initiative called the M2M Solidarity Project designed to contribute to a revival of European solidarity rooted in peer-learning exchanges between community-driven initiatives. SPI was paired with Cargonoma in Budapest, Hungary and together the partnership opted to produce a photo essay illustrating the innovative ways each project is addressing the crises of our times. These were produced in Hungarian, Irish and English. It was also decided to use the theoretical work of Budapest-native Karl Polanyi (1886-1964) to highlight the significance of the work of the two projects. A two-part podcast explored this dimension. The photo essay and podcast are available on the Ecovillage website.

Féile na nÚll - The Community Apple Festival

Cloughjordan saw a wonderful two days of apple-based events and celebrations, with its annual Féile na nÚll - Apple Festival held over September 18 and 19. The Apple Festival was organised by SPI and Cultivate - a sustainability NGO based in the Ecovillage. Féile na nÚll is part of the European Day of Sustainable Communities, a Europe-wide celebration of communities taking action for a healthier, fairer, regenerative Europe. An article following the success of the Festival was published in the *Nenagh Guardian*.

Global Ecovillage Network Presentation

The Education Officer gave a presentation to Global Ecovillage Network *ReGENerative Schools* webinar on 30 November 2021. The event was attended by over 50 international participants. SPI was subsequently invited to participate in a Global Ecovillage Network *Regenerative Schools Twinning Project* in 2022.

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ECOVILLAGE | DEEP LISTENING SERIES

Beyond CoP26: Identifying Transformative Pathways

Saturday, November 20th 2021
11:00 am to 12:30 pm GMT



ECOVILLAGE Biodiversity Week 2021

ONLINE EVENTS FROM CLOUGHJORDAN ECOVILLAGE

COMMUNITY FARM | CUAN BEO EDUCATION SPACE | DARK SKIES BOWL | SENSORY GARDENS



BIODIVERSITY & WELLBEING

Online Event www.youtube.com/justmultimedia
Available to view from 20 May 2021

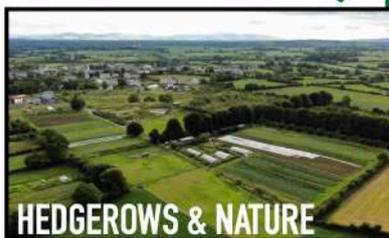
How can fostering our connection to nature help strengthen our well-being?



WISDOM OF PLACE

Online Event www.youtube.com/justmultimedia
Available to view from 21 May 2021

WISDOM OF PLACE Wondrous Weeds



HEDGEROWS & NATURE

Online Event www.youtube.com/justmultimedia
Available to view from 23 May 2021

For the Birds! Better management of hedgerows for biodiversity.



iACT Project - Action for Community Transition

This project is funded by Erasmus + and is coordinated by the Lead Partner Permaculture Association of Britain LBG (Great Britain). There are six other partners involved including Sustainable Projects Ireland CLG.

The iACT project participants are composed of a network of community-led initiatives and adult education providers. Their expertise includes community resilience, social innovation, collaborative and online learning. The partners are based throughout Europe and include: Permakultur Danmark (Denmark), Association Green School Village (Bulgaria), University of Lisbon (Portugal) Laboratorio Sicilia 2030 (Italy) and Centre for Ecological Learning Luxembourg.

The objectives of the project are: To create a virtual and physical networked learning system for environmental solutions; To create a system of blended learning and quality assurance 'badges' for high quality adult education on solutions to the environmental crises; To facilitate adult learning that brings about change, by supporting transition in response to the Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Climate Agreement.

The activities and methodology will feature demonstration and blended learning: The project activities will produce 4 inter-related Intellectual Outputs, linked to a set of Training and Multiplier events that are designed to generate deep and long lasting benefits for the partners. The project activities also include Project meetings (online and when possible face to face) through which partners will progress the tasks to deliver the project outputs, project evaluation and dissemination. The methodology is to gather, analyse and collate best practice across a set of relevant themes; define a competence framework and learning pathway; and collate a set of shared tools- drawn together through a consultative process.

In 2021 the partners focused on identifying good practice examples of transformative learning centres/ communities in their countries. We also began planning the project website, as we are keen to ensure that this website has an active life after the project has finished.

Weekend Tours

The Tour Guide Manual was updated as part of the recruitment drive for new tour guides and a powerpoint presentation created for training new guides. Two training sessions for Tour Guides were held in March, covering COVID-19 safety procedures and updated content for tours.

A new Health and Safety protocol and a volunteer policy for the weekend tours has been introduced. All volunteer guides have been instructed in the process and weekend tour documentation has been updated. Weekend Tours recommenced and are currently held every Sunday at 3pm. Over 100 visitors attended the tours, generating an income of €463.

CLOUGHJORDAN ECOVILLAGE TOURS



Sundays at 3.00 pm

Departing from the Shoelagh na Gig Bookshop on CloughJordan Main Street.

The tours are held rain or shine and last approximately 1 hour. €5 per person. No need to book.

You can book a group tour on our website. For more information, questions or queries, please email education@thevillage.ie

www.thevillage.ie

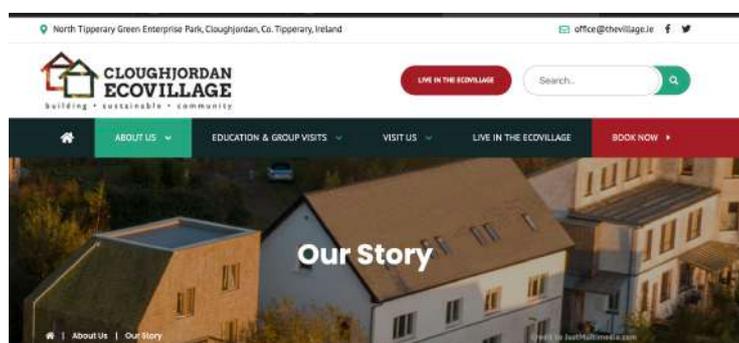


Website Update

In 2021 SPI received IEN funding to upgrade, improve and consolidate the CloughJordan Ecovillage website in order to promote and increase awareness around our work. The overriding objective was to achieve a significant increase in public engagement with the Ecovillage and to translate that into enhanced income generation via site sales and a measurable growth in uptake on our educational courses.

The immediate practical objective was an upgrade, improvement and consolidation of the website, in order to achieve the above as key strategic priorities for the project.

This upgrade and refocusing of the website will form the backbone of a clear and cohesive communications strategy. The new Ecovillage website design upgrade went live in November. The Education Officer was also trained in maintaining the back end of the website.



Newsletter

A newsletter giving notice of Ecovillage news and events was sent to our 1800 subscribers on 11 March, 13 May, 10 September, and 9 November 2021.

Coach House Refurbishment

Plans submitted to LEADER to refurbish the Coach House at the entrance to the Ecovillage as a reception, SPI office and education centre were noted. As these requests are held on a first come first served basis, the application is well placed to secure funding. However LEADER is not in a position to award any funding without planning permission. Planning permission for the renovation of the Coach House faces the same obstacles as other permission sought by SPI. Thus no further progress has been made on this plan in 2021.



Research

Ten researchers contacted the Ecovillage over the course of 2021 requesting to do research on aspects of the community and project. These included researchers from NUI Galway, University College Cork, Maynooth University and Trinity College, Dublin, and the following universities outside Ireland: the University of Wisconsin-Madison, the University of Helsinki, the London School of Economics, Robert Gordon University Aberdeen, the University of Groningen and the University of Copenhagen. A consultant asked for an interview about the Ecovillage as part of her research into sustainability options for Buttevant in County Cork. Interviews were arranged with appropriate members in response to all the requests. Andrea Muzzarelli continued his research on education for sustainability in the Ecovillage as part of his PhD on the subject.

Oscar Mooney, a Masters student of ecosystem science and policy at UCD, spent a two-month internship in the Ecovillage from mid April to mid June as part of his MA programme. He took on various tasks for VERT and the SPI board under the supervision of Peadar Kirby. Naoise Kennedy, a MA student in Marketing in UCC, sent his completed Applied Research Project entitled 'How to mainstream sustainable consumption in Skibbereen, using leanings from Cloughjordan eco-village'. This has been included in the research database on the Ecovillage website.



Cloughjordan Ecovillage comprises a total area of 67 acres roughly comprising one third housing, one third woodland, and one third amenity and farming.

SPI's Land Use group has the following remit:

- To oversee the care and management of all communal lands, in line with the Village ethos, Eco Charter and SPI's role as an educational charity.
- To manage the design, implementation and maintenance of the urban, amenity/work, farm and wooded areas.
- To be a forum for research, discussion and education about all aspects of Land Use.
- To ensure that the land plays a leading role in making our community resilient and productive.

Work has continued in maintaining Orchards with annual pruning of the apple and plum trees and maintenance of the cob/ hazelnut trees.

A shelter hedge of Hawthorn was planted to the West of the apple Orchard. This was done through a meitheal with many members coming out to help in the planting.

A forester SPI engaged has completed an inspection of the woodland for the Forestry grant 10 year report to the Department and the trees are growing well.

Funding has been obtained for the pond planned between Mound and Woodland and it is hoped that construction work will be completed by the end of 2022. This pond will give an opportunity for new species of plant and insect in the Ecovillage and widen our biodiversity.

A biodiversity audit was commissioned, and we had several meetings with our ecologist, Sophia Couchman, who gave advice on mowing our wildlife meadows. Her interim report is due next year.

Members of the Land Use group also supported a biology student from Trinity College to do a mini audit of plants on 'the Mound' and this report has been received and circulated to members. As a result we have identified a possible unusual hybrid of the Dactylorhiza Orchid. This O'Kelly's spotted orchid is usually found in Clare and Galway with a few sightings elsewhere in Ireland.

The group liaised with an Ecovillage member to create a new Land Plan map which is in the process of being updated. This will help the group continue to record the agreed use for sections of land and it is hoped eventually to record trees as well as structures and landscape features.

The Land Use group has liaised with the Allotments group over the process of agreeing new polytunnels in this area.



**CLOUGHJORDAN
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Féile na nÚll
THE COMMUNITY APPLE FESTIVAL
SATURDAY 18th & SUNDAY 19th SEPTEMBER 2021 | CLOUGHJORDAN | TIPPERARY

INFO STALLS | FARMERS MARKET
TALKS | WORKSHOPS | APPLE PRESSING
BLUE DOOR SESSIONS OPEN MIC
FILM SCREENINGS | APPLE BAKE CONTEST
ECOVILLAGE & FARM TOURS | GAMES

SATURDAY 18th SEPTEMBER 2021 | 19.00 - 22.00 | €10
SHAKALAK
THE WOOD OF O'
SPOKEN WORD MEL WHITE & JOHN CUMMINS, DJ OLLIE MOORE
Cloughjordan Community Amphitheatre

SUNDAY 19th SEPTEMBER 2021 | 13.00 - 18.00
@ WeCreate Centre, Cloughjordan Ecovillage

SUPPORTING PARTNER OF
**SUSTAINABLE
COMMUNITIES**

The Process group is responsible for the decision-making processes within the Ecovillage, and organises the monthly Ecovillage Members Meetings (where information is exchanged, discussions take place, and big decisions and policy changes are authorised). The group's role includes setting agenda, providing facilitation, and ensuring minutes are recorded, circulated and approved. In 2021 these meetings were held over Zoom.

In 2021 the group supported the SPI board with bringing the Ecovillage completion plan and the Roadmap to members, and the subsequent decision making process. They also designed and implemented a decision-making process relating to a new bridge design, as well as overseeing the decisions to create a new wildlife pond in the Ecovillage, and establish a new email list to improve communications.

The Process group also initiated the first annual review event early in the year, for all working groups to present their plans for the year ahead, recognise synergies and overlaps with other groups, and ascertain which aspects of each group's work-plan fell within their remit, and which ought to be brought to the wider membership. This also functioned as a visioning session for groups and individuals to consider their dreams and plans for the year ahead, and discuss what was needed to put them in place.

Other achievements in 2021 included the establishment of a conflict resolution group, which met monthly throughout the year.

The group is also responsible for ensuring agreed processes are upheld, and in 2021 this involved dealing with grievances in cases where individuals believed processes had not been adhered to, or that there were insufficient processes in place to address their concerns.



Licensees of Sustainable Projects Ireland are recognised as playing a key role in facilitating delivery of the charity's core objectives. Their work in the Ecovillage is supported through the issue of licence agreements.

Cloughjordan Community Farm

Cloughjordan Community Farm is a Community Supported Agriculture project stewarding the land, building soil biology and providing vegetables all year round to approximately 80 subscribers from the local area.

As a social enterprise, the Community Farm seeks to promote a healthy food culture and to guarantee a secure local food supply, as well as hosting training in resilient food systems and sustainable agriculture. The producers at the start of 2021 were Torben Marl and Rebecca Gould with support from Pat Malone. Rebecca finished in the Autumn, while Torban stayed on to work with Pat in the 2022 season. The Farm board saw two new members join in 2021 - Megan O Hanlon (Kildare) and Fergal Anderson (Galway).

With funding secured in December 2020 from Rethink Ireland the Farm established the Food Hub at the WeCreate Enterprise Centre to provide sustainable routes to market for the Farm and local small producers through an online farmers market and a Training Network providing training and mentoring to farmers, producers and other food hubs across Ireland.

Mel White and Aaron Bailey took over coordinating the European Solidarity Corps programme in 2021, which sees 8 young people (aged 18-30) come here for a year to live, learn and work in our community and on the farm.

In 2021 the Farm researched and published a major report for Trasna Productions on the potential of CSA for Camphill Communities, produced a film on the Farm for the St Patrick's Festival, coordinated the CSA Ireland Network where we carried out a survey on CSAs in Ireland and hosted a large online gathering for CSAs and Regenerative Farmers. Due to the Covid restrictions the annual Feeding Ourselves gathering of CSA and Regenerative farmers, was organised as a virtual series of events held over a week in partnership with ARC2020, NOTS, Cultivate and Talamh Beo.

Earlier in 2021 the Cuan Beo educational facility was established, which includes the Educational Polytunnel, Green Cabin and is developing a wheelchair accessible compost toilet. This provides an area of enhanced biodiversity with an emphasis on educational growing and experimentation, encouraging pollinators and focusing on indigenous seeds.

RED Gardens

The RED Gardens is a Research, Education and Demonstration project within the Ecovillage that is focused on helping more people grow more of their own food. It is an independent project managed by Bruce Darrell and another resident of the Ecovillage, that consists of a series of family scale gardens, a larger scale growing space, including a third large polytunnel that was set up in the autumn of 2021 on Ecovillage land, as well as a community composting facility and other food growing projects.

The project is centered around a YouTube channel, which had grown substantially in 2021, adding an additional 14 thousand subscribers to the channel, 25 new videos and with a total of almost 2 million views in the year. The vegetables grown in these gardens are distributed to residents of the Ecovillage and other residents of Cloughjordan through an innovative type of honesty stand, when people can access fresh local vegetables on a 'pay what you think it is worth' basis. The number of people collecting food from this honesty stand increased significantly in 2021, as did the amount of fresh, local, in season vegetables.

The RED Gardens also continues to serve as a key focus of tours around the Ecovillage, with regular formal and informal visits and discussions about the gardens and growing food as a means to improve sustainability and mitigate climate change. Bruce also teaches formal courses, including several modules in a Permaculture Design Course run by Cultivate, using the 6 family scale gardens as the basis of a practical demonstration and comparison of diverse methods of growing vegetables in the Irish climate.



Cloughjordan Amphitheatre

The value of the community amphitheatre, being an outdoor space amuigh faoin sp  ir, with excellent access and egress and enabling personal distancing, was demonstrated throughout the summer of 2021. Despite the ever-changing public health restrictions and regulations Cloughjordan Arts managed to present five professional concerts between June and September as well as a number of smaller community and voluntary events. Among the artists who performed were Mary Coughlin, Susan O'Neill, Ultan Conlon, Mick Flannery and Kila.

However, the uncertainty made things extremely difficult both from an organisational and financial perspective. To take one example - the permitted capacity fluctuated throughout the summer and this meant that only very limited numbers of tickets could be offered for sale. Most of the 2021 events sold out but this did not represent the available capacity of the venue and therefore the season as a whole lost money and no outstanding debt was repaid.

The Covid-related supports offered to the professional events sector were not available to Cloughjordan Arts as a voluntary organisation. In fact the subsidies led directly to some of our concerts being cancelled due to commercial competitors offering heavily discounted tickets to see the same artists.

Despite the extraordinarily difficult environment, particularly for live events, Cloughjordan Arts was very proud to have been able to provide a space for communal enjoyment and human interaction. Late in 2021 the Government announced funding to develop outdoor arts amenities (Outdoor Public Spaces Scheme) in every local authority area. While the amphitheatre does not qualify for these supports, it surely demonstrates that Cloughjordan Ecovillage has been visionary and pioneering with the amphitheatre development.

Cloughjordan FC

Cloughjordan FC continued to use the amenity field ("EcoPark") to host training and matches for up to a 100 local boys and girls throughout the year.



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