



Slí na nOileán

Samhradh / Summer 2012
Eagrán / Issue 08



Birdwatch Ireland

Staidéar Féidearthachta
ar athbhunú ghnáthóg na dtraonach ar Oileán Árainn Mhór (lth3)

*Feasibility Study
of the corncrake habitat on Árainn Mhór (p5)*

Nuacht Laistigh

- **Tograí Íoctha**
- **Bíodh a fhios agat do chearta**
- **"Déanta in Inis Eoghain"**
- **Clár na Gaillimhe a Thacaíonn le Daoine Breacaosta & Tuilleadh**

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- **Grants Paid**
- **Know Your Rights**
- **"Made in Inishowen"**
- **Galway Age Friendly Programme & More**



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Le Buíochas / With Thanks © Anita Donaghy



Comhshaol, Pobal agus Rialtas Áitiúil
Environment, Community and Local Government



Maoinithe ag Rialtas na hÉireann faoin bPlean Forbartha Náisiúnta, 2007 - 2013

Clár Forbartha Tuaithe - Deontais íoctha

Bird Watch Ireland

Fuair Bird Watch Ireland €1,800 le staidéar féidearthachta a dhéanamh ar na coinníollacha a theastaíonn chun gnáthóg na dtraonach ar Oileán Árann Mhór a athbhunú agus a bhainistiú go praiticiúil. Tá líon na dtraonach ag meadú le blianta beaga anuas agus faoi láthair tá 10% de líon na dtraonach i nDún na Gall ann, sin thart ar 6% den líon náisiúnta. An chúis is dóchúlú leis seo ná go bhfuil roinnt mhaith de na páirceanna tréigthe agus nach bhfuiltear á ngearradh i gcomhair tuí a thuilleadh. Bheadh sé thar a bheith inmhianaithe athchóiriú agus bainistiú a dhéanamh ar na páirceanna seo le cead ó na húinéirí talúin. De bharr nach ndéantar feirmeoireacht orthu a thuilleadh, níl siad ag fáil aon íocaíochtaí stáit eile.

Cloistear ar a laghad traonach amháin sa reilig in Árann Mhór, agus tá foscadh mhaith ar fáil don traonach i réigiún ghiolcaí agus raithní ar an Oileán chomh maith.



Tá ceantair na dtraonach sainithe go soiléir i staidéar roimh seo ach tá géarghá anois le bainistiú cúramach. Is mian le Birdwatch Ireland tabhairt faoin mbainistiú sin ach tá gá le staidéar féidearthachta ar dtús le n-aimsiú cé mhéid de na páirceanna tréigthe seo atá i gceantar na dtraonach agus cé mhéid úinéir talún a bheadh sásta an cineál seo oibre a bheith curtha i gcrích.

Slí na nOileán

Forbairt Turasóireachta

Bhéara Teo

Íocadh sciar deontas de €17,241.96 le Forbairt Turasóireachta Bhéara Teo chun uasghrádú a dhéanamh ar chuid de Bhealach Siúlóide Bhéara agus Oileán Dursaí.

Comharchumann Forbartha & Fostaíochta Árann Mhóir

Tugadh deontas de €29,565.00 dóibh chun Cúrsa Máistreachta Luaimhe Eischósta a reáchtáil.

Comhar na nOileán

Fuair Comhar na nOileán Teo €4,136.23 do chúrsa traenála ar “Léiriú ar na Meáin Sóisialta – na bealaí nua cumarsáide” dírithe orthu siúd a bhfuil gnóthaí beaga acu ar na hOileáin sna 4 reigiún, Gaillimh, Maigh Eo, Dún na nGall agus Corcaigh. Ba é cuspóir na traenála ná conas custaiméirí a mhealladh agus an buntáiste is fearr a bhaint as na h-árdáin éagsúla sna meáin sóisialta (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Blogging).

Tugadh €10,516.74 do Chomhar freisin don togra trasnáisiúnta faoi fhuinneamh inathnuaite agus úsáid fuinnimh i mbealach inmharthana sna hoileáin bheaga. Is comhpháirtíocht atá ann idir oileáin na Danmhairge agus oileáin na hÉireann. Chuaigh siad ar thuras chuig Samsö, oileán sa Danmhairg atá neamhthuilleamaíoch ó thaobh fuinnimh de. Sa tír seo chuaigh siad ar thuras go Gaillimh agus Inis Oírr, agus d’fhreastal siad ar seimineár le Fuinneamh Inmharthana Éireann maidir lena dtionscadail fuinnimh inathnuaite ar Oileáin Árann.

Comhar Caomhán Teo

Fuair Comhar Caomhán Teo an sciar deireanach de €1,231.17 don Pháirc Uile Aimsire Astroturf. Fuair siad €13,725.00 chomh maith le cúrsa traenála i mbailiú báistí a reáchtáil.

Comharchumann na nOileán Bheaga

Tugadh deontas de €740 dóibh le sraith ranganna a reáchtáil, ar a raibh Cúrsa Láimhsiú Sábháilte dóibh siúd a bhfuil baint acu le gairmeacha cúraim agus tógála, Cúrsa Ealaíona agus Ceardaíochta, agus Cúrsa Cóiriú Bláthanna.

Comharchumann Oileán Árann Mhór Teo

Fuair an Comharchumann €8,750.90 le Lomaire Féir a cheannach d'úsáid an phobail agus le n-úsáid i bpáirceanna póiblí an oileáin, lena n-áirítear Páirc Gailf Dhá Mhaide an Oileáin, na Títhe Saoire & thimpeall ar fhoirgintí Póiblí an oileáin agus na reilige. Tá an Comharchumann ag plé le forbairt na turasóireachta agus caomhnú na timpeallachta chomh maith le tograí infrastruchtúr an oileáin. Go dtí seo bhí an Comharchumann ag brath ar dhaoine a thug lomaire ar iasacht don Chomharchumann.

Comharchumann Thóraí Teo

Íocadh €3,750 le Comharchumann Thóraí Teo le Físeán fógraíochta d'Oileán Thóraí a chur le chéile. Is féidir teacht ar an bhfíseán seo ag www.oileanthoraí.com



Dún Bhaloir / Balor's Fort, Oileán Thoraí

Dr Deirdre Ní Chonghaile

Tugadh maoiniú €2,587.98 di do threalamh nua taifeadta fuaimne agus craolacháin. Is í an obair a bhíonn ar siúl aici ná ceol agus amhráin Árann agus an stair a bhaineann leo a fhiosrú, a fhógairt, a fhoilsiú, a chraoladh agus a chur chun cinn. De bhrí go bhfuil cúrsaí teicneolaíochta ag forbairt go tapa faoi láthair, tá an trealamh atá in úsáid ró-shean anois. Le trealamh nua, beidh sí in ann an t-eolas a dhigitiú. Is é an toradh fadtéarmach a bheidh ar an togra seo ná caomhnú agus daingniú saibhris agus cleachtais an cheoil in Árann.



Dair Portaigh / Bog-Oak, Inis Bó Finne

Inishbofin Development Company

Fuair siad €352.83 i dtreo costais táirgthe agus deartha 3 aonad taispeána a chabhróidh le cur chun cinn agus margaíocht Inis Bó Finne. Fuair siad €2,987.45 freisin do chúrsaí a bhain le dair phortaigh, feiltbhrat agus haitéireacht.

Lorraine McClean

Fuair Lorraine €5,120.14 chun feabhas a chur ar a cuid scileanna criadóireachta agus chun réimse táirgí a fhorbairt a bheidh feiliúnach le díol in Inis Bó Finne.

Mná Fiontracha

Íocadh deontas de €1,367.54 leis na Mná Fiontracha le trealamh nua a cheannach don Chartlann Béaloidis ar Inis Mór. Chun cur le Cartlann Béaloidis Árann, tá na Mná Fiontracha ag tabhairt faoi logainmneacha ar an Oileán a bhailiú, agus na logainmneacha ar an Oileán a mapáil do chóras GPS a bheidh oiriúnach le n-úsáid le Google Earth. Tá siad ag tabhairt faoi mhapáil digiteach ar reiligí an Oileáin ionas gur féidir teacht orthu ar Google Earth. Tá siad ag bailiú griangraif, agallaimh agus amhráin freisin ionas go mbeidh traidisiúin an Oileáin bailithe agus caomhnaithe don phobal. Bhí roinnt píosaí trealamh riachtanach chun forbairt na cartlainne a chinntiú.



Sherkin Island Development (SIDS)

Fuair SIDS €7,126 le 750 cóip de Straitéis Forbartha Comhtháite Oileáin Chorcaí Thiar a fhoilsiú. Tá Grúpa Idir-Eagrais Iarthar Chorcaí ag obair le chéile tríd an mBord Forbartha Contae chun cúrsaí eacnamíochta agus sóisialta ar na 7 n-oileán in Iarthar Chorcaí a chur chun cinn sna 10 mbliana atá amach romhainn agus níos faide anonn.

Rural Development Programme Grants Paid

Bird Watch Ireland

Received €1,800.00 for a project which entailed carrying out a feasibility study of the necessary conditions for the practical management & restoration of the corncrake habitat on Árainn Mhór. The population of corncrakes on the island is increasing in recent years and it currently holds almost 10% of the Donegal population and about 6% of the national population. The increase is likely to be partly due to the fact that many meadows have been abandoned and are no longer cut for hay on the island, reducing the amount of birds being killed during mowing. It would be highly desirable to restore some of those meadows and to manage these with the landowners' consent. As they are no longer farmed, they are not in receipt of other state payments.



The graveyard in Árainn Mór is an area where at least one corncrake is often heard and other areas of reeds or bracken on the island provide good cover for corncrakes. Corncrake habitats have been clearly defined in a previous study but they now need careful management. Bird Watch Ireland would like to carry out the management work but a feasibility study is required to first determine how much abandoned land there is in the corncrake habitats and how many landowners may be willing to have this work carried out.

Beara Tourism Development Ltd

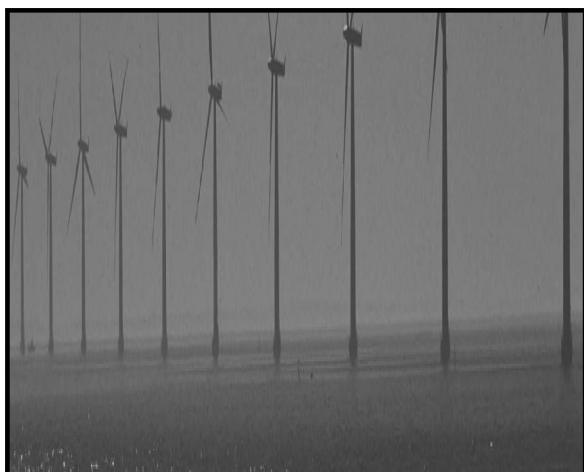
Phase payment of €17,241.96 was paid to Beara Tourism Development Ltd to upgrade parts of the Beara Way Walks on both Bere Island and Dursley Island.

Comharchumann Forbartha & Fostaíochta Árainn Mhóir

Grant aid of €29,565 was paid to them for a Yacht master Offshore Training Course.

Comhar na nOileán Teo

Comhar na nOileán Teo received €4,136.23 for running a training course entitled “An Introduction to Social Media” in the 4 regions, Galway, Mayo, Donegal and Cork, aimed at those on the Islands who are running small businesses and to help them engage with customers and create awareness of their business using the tools of social media. The course included getting the most out of the social networking platforms available (Face book, Twitter, LinkedIn, Blogging). They also received €10,516.74, the second phase payment for their project on renewable energy and the sustainable use of energy on the small islands. Three Danish and three Irish island energy groups are involved. The project involved an initial visit to Samsø, an island in Denmark which has achieved energy self sufficiency. In Ireland they visited Galway and Inis Oírr, and they attended a talk by Sustainable Energy Ireland on their renewable energy projects on the Aran Islands.



Muillte Gaoithe / Windmills Samsø

Comhar Caomhán Teo

The final payment of €1,231.17 was paid to Comhar Caomhán Teo for the All Weather AstroTurf Pitch. They also received €13,725.00 for a training course in rainwater harvesting.

Comharchumann na nOileán Bheaga

Received funding of €740.00 for a series of training courses including a Manual Handling course for those involved in the caring profession and construction, an Arts and Crafts Course, and a Flower Arranging course.



*Lomaire Féir / Ride-on Lawn Mower
Oileán Árainn Mhór*

Comharchumann Oileán Árainn Mhór Teo

Grant aid of €8,750.90 was paid to them for the purchase of a Ride-on Lawn Mower to service the public areas and amenities on the Island. These include the Pitch and Putt, the sport pitches, the cemetery, the Holiday village and the areas around all the public buildings and amenities on the Island. Comharchumann Oileán Árainn Mhór are responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of these sites and in the past relied on lawn mowers on loan from individuals on the Island.

Comharchumann Thoraí Teo

€3,750 was paid to Comharchumann Thoraí Teo for making a Promotional Video of Tory Island. The video can be seen by logging onto their website at www.oileanthoraí.com.

Dr Deirdre Ní Chonghaile

Received €2,587.98 for Recording and Broadcasting Equipment. She has been analysing, collecting, archiving, promoting, and broadcasting the History of Music and Song on the Aran Islands for the last number of years. Her objective is to have all these resources and material digitised and up to date, in a format which can be used and disseminated, in order to preserve the rich musical tradition of Aran for generations ahead.

Inishbofin Development Company

Inishbofin Development Company received €352.83 for the production and design costs of 3 roll up display units that will assist in the promotion and marketing of Inishbofin Island. They also received €2,987.45 for a Training Project which included courses in the following: Bogoak, Felting and Millinary.



Aonaid Taispeána / Roll-Up Displays, Inis Bó Finne

Lorraine McClean

Lorraine Mc Clean of Inishbofin received funding of €5,120.14 to undertake research and development in order to enhance her skills in ceramics, and to test and develop a product range that will be suitable for sale in various outlets on Inishbofin.



Potaireacht / Pottery Lorraine McClean

Mná Fiontracha

They received €1,367.54 to purchase new equipment for the Folklore Archive on Inishmore. To add to the Aran Folklore Archive, Mná Fiontracha are undertaking the collection of place names on the Island, mapping the place names for a GPS system that is suitable for usage on Google Earth. They are also undertaking the digital mapping of the cemeteries of the Island, so that they can be accessed on Google Earth, as well as collating photographs, interviews and songs so that the traditions of the Island is collated and preserved for the community. To ensure the development of the archive, a number of pieces of equipment were essential.

Sherkin Island Development (SIDS)

Received €7,126.00 for the publication of 750 copies of the West Cork Islands Integrated Development Strategy. The West Cork Interagency Group have been working together through the County Development Board to produce a Strategy for the economic, social and cultural development of the 7 west Cork Islands over the next 10 years and beyond.

Bia Áitiúil - 'Déanta in Inis Eoghain'

Tá clú agus cáil ag teacht ar Inis Eoghain i nDún na nGall maidir le glasraí, éisc agus feoil ó fhoinsí áitiúla agus táirgí séasúrach den scoth. Má chuirtear cócaireacht agus cur i láthair d'ardchaighdeán, praghasanna réasunta le margaíocht chliste sna meáin sóisialta leis sin, tá eiseamláir de ghnó fíor-rathúil agat. Tá *Harry's Bar & Restaurant* i gCeann an Droichid, cúpla céad slat ón teorainn le Doire ar bhóthar Litir Cheanainn go Doire, mar chuid lárnach den athbheochan céille seo.

Thart ar ocht mbliana ó shin bhog an úinéir Donal Doherty ó Londain ar ais chuig gnó a theaghlach agus thosaigh sé ag déanamh mion-scrúdú ar na nósanna gnó agus ar an bhfios a glacadh leo in earnáil na bialainne agus an bheáir. Bhí bonn custaiméirí dílis ag Harry's mar theach stéige agus theastaigh ó Dhónal feabhas a chuir ar chaighdeán an fheoil a bhí á úsáid sa bhialann agus laghdú a bhaint amach ar an tionchar a bhí ag na meáncheannaithe agus ag an gcéatadán brabúis mór a bhí á bhaint amach acu, rud atá coitianta i gnó bialainne.

Ag féachaint mórthimpeall Inis Eoghain, chonaic Dónal láidreacht sna feirmeoirí bheaga a bhí ag táirgeadh beithigh d'ardchaighdeán. É sin ráite, bhí siadsan maraon le Harry's buailte ag neamhchinnteacht i bpraghasanna mar gheall ar an ráta brabúis íseal, na margaí agus na meáncheannaithe atá i gceist na laethanta seo. Trí chéatadán flaithiúil a thairiscint, a bheadh os cionn an praghas a bheadh súil ag an bhfeirmeoir a fháil ag an margadh, bhí Dónal abálta a theacht ar chonablaigh beithigh iomlán ar ardchaighdeán le n-oibriú leo. Crochadh an mhairteoil i seomra fuar na bialainne go dtí go mbeadh sé díreach ceart, agus réitithe le bheith gearrtha ag búistéir páirt-aimseartha Harry's, a rinne stéigeanna, stobhaigh agus spólaí neamhchoiteanta eile de dá gcustaiméirí.

Leanadh ar aghaidh leis an eiseamláir seo sna blianta dár gcionn ag úsáid mairteoil ó phórtha neamhchoitianta dúchásacha gearr-adharcaigh agus bollataigh, muiceoil orgánach ó mhuca dhiallaite neamhchoitianta áitiúla, cearca tógtha lasmuigh chomh maith le héisc a rugadh orthu ó fhoinsí ag calafort Inis Eoghain, An Caisleán Nua. An éiteas a bhí ann ná cloí chomh fada agus a d'fhéadfaí le táirgí inbhuanaithe ar an mbiachlár atá "Déanta in Inis Eoghain" agus athfhorbairt a dhéanamh ar scileanna; ceird an bhúistéireacht agus soláthrú éisc, nithe a raibh dearmad déanta orthu le blianta anuas de bharr an rás chuig eiseamláir próiseáil láraithe. Níor éirigh leo rathúlacht a bhaint amach thar oíche. Ar dtús bhí dul chun cinn an-mhall agus thóg sé ocht mbliana an gnó a fháil go dtí an pointe a bhfuil 20% de mhairteoil an bhiachláir ag teacht díreach ó fheirmeoirí áitiúla. Ar a shon sin, tá i bhfad níos mó custaiméirí dílse faighte ag Harry's. Sí an aidhm atá ag Dónal ná 100% dá gcuid feola a fháil go háitiúil. Rud amháin a bhí in easnamh ná glasraí agus luibheanna séasúracha, úra. Chonaic Dónal deis i seanghairdín 200 acra a bhí mar pháirt d'eastát a chara Na Doherty's. Tosaíodh an bhliain seo caite ar athchóiriú an teach gloine, na húlloird, ballaí agus ceapacha leis an aidhm go mbeidh gach táirge sa bhialann ag fás sa ghairdín i mbliana.

An bhliain seo caite, d'fhreastal mé ar fhéile bia áitiúil a bhí eagraithe ag Harry's, agus rith sé liom cé chomh hoiriúnach agus a bheadh eiseamláir Dónal ar na hOileáin. Le linn na ceardlainne éagsúla ar dhéanamh ime, sailliú bagúin agus déanamh putóg dhubh smaoinigh mé go bhfuil gach oileáin in Éirinn ag brath ar bhia-ábhair a thugtar isteach ar an mbád, bia a bhíodh ag fás go háitiúil fadó. Chuireadh iasc agus feoil, a ghabhfaí agus a tháirgfí go h-áitiúil, postanna ar fáil d'Oileánaigh, ag cruthú ioncaim agus fostaíocht. Bheadh jabanna turasoireachta, agus ioncam d'iascairí agus d'fheirmeoirí bheaga ar na hOileáin i gceist, gan labhairt ar sholáthar bia blasta d'ardchaighdeán do bhéile ar na hOileáin. B'fhéidir go bhfuil sé in am anois críonnacht aitheanta a cheistiú, céard is féidir a dhéanamh, agus an chéad chéim a thógáil mar atá déanta ag Dónal Doherty in Inis Eoghain?

Local Food - 'Made in Inishowen'

Inis Eoghain (Inishowen) in Donegal is building a reputation for excellent seasonal and locally sourced meat, fish and vegetables. Add to this quality cooking and presentation, affordable pricing coupled with social media marketing savvy to spread the good news and you get the makings of a highly successful business model. Central to this common sense renaissance is Harry's Bar & Restaurant in Bridgend, a couple of hundred yards from the border with County Derry on the Letterkenny to Derry road.

Around eight years ago proprietor Donal Doherty moved from London to his family business and started to look hard at the accepted wisdom and business practices carried out around the restaurant and bar trade. Harry's had a loyal customer base as a steak house and Donal wanted to improve both the quality of the meat served in the restaurant and to reduce the reliance on middlemen and their high margins which are commonplace in the restaurant logistics chain. Looking around his native Inishowen, Donal saw strength in the small farmers who produced high quality cattle. However, they like Harry's, were susceptible to the uncertainty in pricing caused by the low margins, marts and middlemen which make up the modern food system. By offering a generous percentage above what the farmer would hope to get at the local mart, Donal was able to get whole, high quality cattle carcasses to work with. The beef was hung in the restaurant's own



cold room until it was just right, ready to be cut up by Harry's part-time butcher into the most delicious steaks, shanks, stews and other more unusual cuts for their customers.

This model was continued in later years with beef from rare breed native Dexters and Shorthorn, organic pork from local rare-breed saddleback pigs, by outdoor reared chicken as well as locally sourced fish landed at Inishowen's port of Greencastle. The ethos was to keep as far as possible, to sustainable menu items which are "Made in Inishowen" and to redevelop skills such as craft butchery and fish mongering which had been neglected over the years in the rush to the centralized processing model. Success didn't come overnight, progress was slow initially and it has taken eight years to build the business to a point where 20% of the menu's beef comes direct from local farms. However, Harry has gained many more loyal customers. Donal's aim is to have 100% of meat sourced direct in future. One missing piece of the puzzle was fresh, seasonal herbs and vegetables. Donal again saw an opportunity in a two acre, 200 year old walled garden which was part of a local estate owned by a friend of the Doherty's. Work began last year in restoring the greenhouse, orchards, walls and beds and the aim is to have all of the restaurant produce grown in the garden this year.

While attending "Inishfood" last year, a festival celebrating local food organized by Harry's, I was struck by how the model that Donal champions would be suited to the islands. During the various hands-on workshops on butter making, bacon curing and black pudding making it occurred to me that all of Ireland's islands are reliant on foodstuffs which are imported on the ferry, foods which were in the past grown locally. Fish and meat, caught and produced on the islands, for islanders initially, would create income and eventually jobs. Jobs in tourism, income for fishermen and small island farmers not to mention providing high quality, tasty food for island tables. Perhaps it is again time to challenge accepted wisdom on what can be done and to take the first step as Donal Doherty has done in Inishowen?

Séamus Ó Cnáimhsí, Oileán Árinn Mhóir

Tuilleadh Eolais / For more information on Harry's Twitter @harrysdonal
<http://www.irishfoodbloggers.com/tag/inishfood/>

An Clár Forbartha Pobail Áitiúil
The Local Community Development Programme
Bíodh fhios agat do Chearta!
Know Your Rights!

Ceist 1: Cáirte leighis a choinneáil

Beidh mé ag filleadh ar an obair i ndiaidh tréimhse dhífhostaíochta. An féidir liom mo chárta leighis a choinneáil?

Freagra:

Má tá íocaíocht leasa shóisialaigh á fáil agat agus má [fhilleann tú ar an obair](#) (cibé acu go lánaimseartha nó go páirtaimseartha) is féidir leat do chárta leighis a choimeád ar feadh 3 bliana ar a mhéid fiú má sháraíonn d'ioncam na teorainneacha. Ní mór go raibh ceann amháin de na híocaíochtaí mar a leanas á bhfáil agat ar feadh 12 mhí nó níos faide:

- Sochar Cuardaitheora Poist
- Liúntas Cuardaitheora Poist
- Íocaíocht Teaghlaigh Aontuismitheora
- Sochar Breoiteachta
- Liúntas Míchumais
- Pinsean na nDall
- Nó bheith ar scéim dreasacht fostaíochta nó scéim um dheiseanna oideachais

Má ghlacann tú le fostaíocht lánaimseartha coinneoidh tú do chárta leighis ar feadh 3 bliana ón dáta a thosaíonn tú ag oibriú. Má ghlacann tú le fostaíocht pháirtaimseartha, tosóidh an tréimhse 3 bliana ón dáta a sháraíonn d'ioncam an teorainn chuí um chárta leighis.

Tá an socrú seo i gceist le daoine ag a bhfuil baint i scéimeanna faoi urraíocht an Rialtais chomh maith, lena n-áirítear an Liúntas um Fhilleadh ar Oideachas, an Liúntas Fiontraíochta um Fhilleadh ar Obair, JobBridge (an scéim náisiúnta intéirneachta), an Scéim Shóisialta Tuaithe, scéimeanna Tús agus Fostaíochta Pobail.

Q 1: Retention of medical cards

I am going back to work after a period of unemployment. Can I keep my medical card?

Answer:

If you are receiving a social welfare payment and [return to work](#) (either full- or part-time) you may retain your medical card for up to 3 years even if your income is above the limits. You must have been getting one of the following payments for 12 months or more:

- Jobseeker's Benefit
- Jobseeker's Allowance
- One-Parent Family Payment
- Illness Benefit
- Disability Allowance
- Blind Pension
- Or have been on an employment incentive scheme or educational opportunity scheme

If you take up full-time employment you will retain your medical card for 3 years from the date you start work. If you take up part-time employment the 3-year period starts from the date your income exceeds the relevant medical card guideline.

This provision also applies to people who are involved in Government-sponsored schemes including the Back to Education Allowance, Back to Work Enterprise Allowance, JobBridge (the national internship scheme) the Rural Social Scheme, Tús and Community Employment schemes.

An bhfuil ceist agat faoi do chearta?

Cuir glaoch ar Chomhar na nOileán nó seol rphost chugainn agus cuirfidh muid i dteagmháil leis an duine cuí tú!

Do you have a question about your rights? Call Comhar na nOileán or send us an email and we will put you in touch with the right person!

(099) 75096 maire@oileain.ie

Ceist 2: Agallaimh leasa shóisialaigh

Tá deireadh curtha le m'éileamh ar Shochar Cuardaitheora Poist agus chuir mé isteach ar Liúntas Cuardaitheora Poist. Dúradh liom gur gá dom bheith ar fáil d'agallamh. Cén fáth a bhfuil agallamh i gceist?

Freagra:

Íocaíocht ÁSPC-bhunaithe is ea Sochar Cuardaitheora Poist (SCP) agus ní dhéantar tástáil mhaoine ina leith. Is ionann méid uasta an Liúntais Cuardaitheora Poist (LCP) agus ráta uasta an SCP, ach déantar tástáil mhaoine i leith LCP. Le linn tástáil mhaoine, déanann an Roinn Coimirce Sóisialaí (RCS) scrúdú ar d'fhoinní ioncain go léir. D'fhéadfadh agallamh bheith i gceist leis an tástáil mhaoine. Gnáthchuid de phróiseáil éileamh an RCS ar íocaíochtaí a ndéantar tástáil mhaoine ina leith iad na hagallaimh sin. Nuair a dhéanann tú éileamh ar Liúntas Cuardaitheora Poist, déanfaidh oifigeach den Roinn an cinneadh an féidir d'éileamh a cheadú láithreach bonn, nó an gá é a atreorú le haghaidh agallaimh.

Má atreoraítear thú le haghaidh agallaimh, is gnách go dtarlaíonn an t-agallamh i d'oifig leasa shóisialaigh áitiúil. Ar a shon sin, d'fhéadfaí thú a chur faoi agallamh i do theach, mar shampla, má bhí tú féinfhostaithe nó má bhí post ócáideach gearrthéarmach agat, nó más gá fianaise thacaíochta a dhearbú. Le linn an agallaimh, d'fhéadfadh an cigire leasa shóisialaigh iarraidh ort doiciméid a sholáthar, ar nós cuntas nó ráiteas ó d'institiúid airgeadais.

Déanann Oifigeach Breithiúnachta ar leith cinneadh faoi do mhaoin.

Mura bhfuil tú sásta leis an gcinneadh a rinneadh ar d'iarratas ar LCP, is féidir leat achomharc a chur ar aghaidh chuig an:

[Oifig neamhspleách Achomharc Leasa Shóisialaigh](#) laistigh de 21 lá tar éis gur cuireadh ar an eolas thú faoi chinneadh d'iarratais. Téigh i dteagmháil leis an Oifig Achomharc Leasa Shóisialaigh, Teach D'Olier, Sráid D'Olier, Baile Átha Cliath 2.

Question 2: Social welfare interviews

My Jobseeker's Benefit claim is at an end and I have applied for Jobseeker's Allowance. I've been told I must make myself available for interview. Why is there an interview?

Answer:

Jobseeker's Benefit (JB) is a PRSI-based payment and it does not have a means test. The maximum amount of Jobseeker's Allowance (JA) is the same as the maximum rate of JB, but JA is means-tested. During a means test the Department of Social Protection (DSP) examines all your sources of income. The means test may involve an interview. Such interviews are a routine part of how the DSP processes claims for mean-tested payments. When you claim Jobseeker's Allowance, an officer of the Department will decide if your claim can be allowed immediately, or if it must be referred for interview.

If you are referred for interview that interview usually takes place in your local social welfare office. However, you might be interviewed at home if, for example, you have been self-employed or in casual short-term employment, or if supporting evidence needs to be verified. During the interview the social welfare inspector may ask you to produce documents such as accounts or statements from your financial institution.

A decision on your means is made by a separate Deciding Officer.

If you are unhappy with the decision made on your application for JA you can appeal to the independent [Social Welfare Appeals Office](#). You should appeal within 21 days of being told the decision on your application.

Contact the Social Welfare Appeals Office, D'Olier House, D'Olier Street, Dublin 2.
Lo-call: 1890 74 74 34.

Ceist 3: Creidmheasanna cánach agus íocaíochtaí leasa shóisialaigh

Faighim Pinsin Stáit (Ranníocach) agus íoctar an Méadú do Dhuine Fásta Cáilithe a fhaighim do mo bhean chéile díreach isteach chuig a cuntas bainc. Mar sin, íoctar mo phinsean iomlán seachtainiúil isteach in dhá chuntas ar leith. An bhfuilimid i dteideal dhá chreidmheas cánach ÁSPC a éileamh?

Freagra:

Tá an Pinsean Stáit inchánaithe, ach ní íocfaidh tú cáin air ach amháin má sháraíonn d'ioncam foriomlán méid do chreidmheasanna cánach nó an tairseach díolúine cánach. (Tá tú díolmhaithe ó cháin ioncaim má tá tú breis agus 65 bliain d'aois agus más níos lú ná €18,000 d'ioncam iomlán bliantúil más duine singil thú, nó €36,000 má tá tú pósta nó i bpáirtnéireacht sibhialta.)

Fad atá Pinsean Stáit á fháil agat, tá tú i dteideal creidmheas cánach ÁSPC a fháil sa mhullach ar do chreidmheas cánach pearsanta. (I 2012, is ionann an creidmheas cánach pearsanta do dhaoine pósta nó do pháirtnéirí sibhialta agus €3,300 agus is ionann an creidmheas cánach ÁSPC agus €1,650.)

Níl duine pósta nó páirtnéir sibhialta i dteideal creidmheas cánach ÁSPC más í íocaíocht Mhéadú do Dhuine Fásta Cáilithe (MDFC) an t-aon fhoinse ioncaim atá acu ón Roinn Coimirce Sóisialaí (RCS). Bíonn sé seo i gceist cibé acu an íoctar nó nach n-íoctar an MDFC go díreach leis an duine fásta cáilithe.

I do chás féin, níl ach duine amháin á íoc, agus áirítear leis seo méadú ar an íocaíocht do do bhean chéile mar dhuine fásta cáilithe. Níl do bhean chéile i dteideal creidmheas cánach ÁSPC a fháil de bharr nach bhfuil aici ioncam ÁSPC ina ceart féin. Is ionann an scéal don uile cháiníocóir seachas daoine a fhaigheann pinsean ón RCS amháin.

Question 3: Tax credits and social welfare payments

I get a State Pension (Contributory) and the Increase for a Qualified Adult I get for my wife is paid directly into her bank account. So my total weekly pension is paid into two separate accounts. Are we entitled to claim two PAYE tax credits?

Answer:

The State Pension is taxable, but you will only pay tax on it if your overall income is greater than the amount of your tax credits or tax exemption threshold. (You are exempt from income tax if you are 65 or over and your annual total income is less than €18,000 if single, or €36,000 if married or in a civil partnership.)

While you are getting a State Pension, you are entitled to a PAYE tax credit in addition to your personal tax credit. (In 2012 the personal tax credit for married people or civil partners is €3,300 and the PAYE tax credit is €1,650.)

A married person or civil partner is not entitled to a PAYE tax credit if their only source of income is the Increase for Qualified Adult (IQA) payment from the Department of Social Protection (DSP). This applies whether or not the IQA is paid directly to the qualified adult.

In your case only one pension is being paid which includes an increase in the payment for your wife as a qualified adult. Your wife is not entitled to a PAYE tax credit because she does not have PAYE income in her own right. This is the case for all taxpayers and not only for people who receive a pension from the DSP.

Tuilleadh eolais ar fáil ón tSeirbhís Teileafóin um Fhaisnéis do Shaoránaigh, Íosghlao 1890 777 121

Further information available from the Citizens Information Phone Service, Lo-call 1890 777 121

www.citizensinformation.ie

Méadú ar an Ráta Cuidithe go 75%!

Clár Forbartha Tuaithe

Is féidir le Comhar na nOileán tograí a mhaoiniú anois d' iarrthóirí príobháideacha ag ráta suas go **75%! Má tá smaoineamh agat do thogra, nó más mian leat tuilleadh eolais a fháil, déan teagmháil le Máire Uí Mhaoláin ag 099 75096 nó ag maire@oileain.ie.**

Increase in Rate Of Aid to 75%!

Rural Development Programme

Comhar na nOileán can now fund projects from private promoters at a rate of up to **75%! If you have an idea for a project, or just want to find out more, contact Mary Lavelle on 087 2872929 or email mary@oileain.ie.**

Cúrsa i mBailiú Uisce Báistí

Rinne Comhar Chaomhán Teo, Inis Oírr iarratas ar chúrsa traenála i mBailiú Báistí do 15 rannpháirtithe, chun eolas cuí agus oilteacht theicniúil a fháil le bheith abálta Córais Bailithe Uisce Báistí a chur isteach. B'é sprioc an chúrsa ná eolas agus oiliúint a chur ar na rannpháirtithe chun na córais Bailithe Uisce Báistí a inshealbhú agus a chothabháil. Tugadh mion-thuisceant do na rannpháirtithe ar na gnéithe éagsúla a bhaineann leis na córais seo, tuiscint ar an uisce féin agus eolas ar an gcóras Sláinte & Sábhailteachta nár mhór cur i bhfeidhm i bhforbairt an chórais. Mhair an Cúrsa 3 lá in oifigí an Chomharchumainn in Inis Oírr agus fuair na rannpháirtithe Scéim Clárúcháin na hEorpa in Inniúlacht Phearsanta (ERS).

Fianaise Phearsanta ó Rannpháirtí

“Ag leanúint ó roinnt mhaith oibre ag éagrú cúrsa i mbailiú uisce báistí agus tar éis trí shamhradh leanúnach de thriomach ar Inis Oírr, síleann muide, na hoileánaigh, go bhfuil ábhar do chúrsa, cruthaithe ag clár maireachtála / fuinneamh inathnuaite an Chomharchumainn, atá in oiriúint do shaol ar oileán. Mholfainn do gach Oileán timpeall na hÉireann iarratas a chuir isteach trí Chomhar na nOileán len cúrsa seo a reachtáil i do phobal láithreach. Bhí an cúrsa seo nuálach in Éirinn, mar go raibh sé deartha in oiriúint do riachtanais ar oileáin.”

Rainwater Harvesting Course

Comhar Caomhán Teo, Inis Oírr, made an application for a training grant to train 15 participants in the relevant knowledge and technical proficiency to install and maintain Rainwater Harvesting Systems. The outcome of the training was that participants gained an understanding of the intricacies associated with the installation of Rainwater Harvesting Systems, the means by which a water balance is maintained, the characteristics of Direct and Gravity Rainwater Harvesting Systems, the stages involved, conducting a risk assessment prior to commencing the installation stage and adherence to relevant Health and Safety Guidelines. The 3 day course was delivered in Inis Oírr at Comhar Caomhán Teo's offices and participants received the European Registration Scheme for Personnel Competence (ERS).

Participant's Personal testimony:

“Following a long lead in period in organising a rainwater harvesting course and after three consecutive summers of drought on the island of Inis Oírr, we the islanders, think our Co-Op's sustainable energy / living programme have created a course content which is ideally suited and specific to Island living. I would recommend to every island around Ireland to apply through Comhar na nOileán to have this course delivered in their community urgently. Ours is the first of its kind in Ireland, designed specifically to suit island needs.”

Eugene Houlihan, Inis Oírr

An bhfuil tú ar Shochar Leasa Shóisialta?

An mbeadh spéis agat a bheith Féin Fhostaithe nó Filleadh ar an Oideachas?

Seans go mbeadh Comhar in ann tacú leat an Liúntas Fiontraíochta a fháil, ionas go bhféadfá cuid de do chuid sochair a choinneáil AGUS airgead a shaothrú ó fhéin fhostaíocht, NÓ d'fhéadfaí cuidiú leat Liúntas Filleadh ar an Oideachais a fháil má tá spéis agat páirt a ghlacadh i gcúrsa faofa ag an dara nó an tríú leibhéal. Tuilleadh eolais: Máire Uí Mhaoláin ag 099 75096 nó maire@oileain.ie.

Are you on Social Welfare Benefit?

Interested in Becoming Self-Employed or interested in Returning to Education?

We may be able to help you to get on to the Back to Work Enterprise Allowance, where you can keep some of your benefits AND earn money from self-employment, OR we may be able to help you to get the Back to Education Allowance, if you are interested in taking an approved course at second or third level. Further information, contact Mary Lavelle on 0872872929 or email mary@oileain.ie.

Líonra d'Oibrithe Ealaíona agus Ceirde na nOileán

Tá Comhar na nOileán ag tacú le forbairt Líonra Ealaíona agus Ceardaíochta na nOileán. I mí Aibreán bhí sraith cainteanna, ceardlanna agus taispeántais de thairgí Oileánda ar siúl againn sa Chlochán agus ar an Oileán Mhór. Déanadh plé ar bhuntáistí cur chuige uile-oileánda a úsáid chun an earnáil a fhorbairt.

Céard d'fhéadfaimid baint amach le chéile?

Forbairt ar líonra ceirde i ngach reigiún:

- Traenáil do thairgeoirí ceirde lena struchtúr líonrach a bhunú
- Cur le scileanna, plean feidhme agus nósanna measúnaithe caighdeánaithe a fhorbairt
- Forbairt Ceirde - na líonraí a thraenáil chun réimse leathan tairgí ó gach Oileán a fhorbairt
- Bealaí chuig traenáil margaíochta ar gach Oileán
- Oibrithe Ceirde a chumasú chun a bhfeiceálacht agus a n-ionaid díolacháin a mhéadú
- Plean Gníomhach do gach Oileán / Reigiún a fhorbairt — plean margaíochta lena n-áireofar forbairt Slite Ealaíona agus Ceirde.

Beidh tuilleadh cruinnithe ar siúl sna míonna amach romhainn chun na líonraí a fhorbairt. Má tá suim agat a bheith páirteach, déan teagmháil le Máire Uí Mhaoláin ag 099 75096 nó maire@oileain.ie.

Network of Island Arts and Crafts Workers

Comhar na nOileán is supporting the establishment of an Arts and Crafts Network. A series of talks, workshops and exhibitions of Island produce have taken place during April in Clifden and on Bere Island in which the benefits of an all-island approach to further developing the sector was discussed.

What could we achieve together?

Development of a craft network in each region:

- Training craft workers to establish their individual network structure
- Up-skilling and support in developing their own quality assessment procedures and operational plan
- Craft Development: Train the networks in developing a comprehensive range of Island products
- Routes to Market Training on each Island
- Enable craft-workers to increase their visibility and their sales outlets
- An Action Plan in each Island/Region – a marketing plan to include the development of individual Island Arts & Crafts Trails.

Further meetings will be taking place in the coming months to develop the networks. If you are interested in participating please contact Mary Lavelle on 087 287 2929 or email mary@oileain.ie.

Cuireadh chuig Ceardlanna Sainchomhairliúcháin Phoiblí

Invitation to Public Consultations

Seoladh Clár na Gaillimhe a Thacaíonn le Daoine Breacaosta ag cruinniú poiblí i nGaillimh i Meán Fómhair 2011. Mhaígh Cathaoirleach an Chláir, John Concannon, go dtabharfaí faoi phróiseas comhairliúcháin ar fud an chontae, chun a chinntiú go gcuirfear tuairimí agus tosaíochtaí daoine scothaosta agus a gcuid eagraíochtaí féin san áireamh i Straitéis na Gaillimhe a Thacaíonn le Daoine Breacaosta. Tá siad ag lorg do thuairimí agus do smaointe a bheidh ina lámh chunta dóibh chun eolas a chur ar fáil i Straitéis na Gaillimhe a Thacaíonn le Daoine Breacaosta.

Más spéis leat freastal ar cheann de na ceardlanna a bheidh ar siúl ar Oileáin na Gaillimhe, cuir glaoh ar Mháire ag 099 75096 no cuir rphost chuici ag maire@oileain.ie



Murar féidir leat freastal ar cheardlann, féadfaidh tú do thuairimí nó do bharúlacha faoin gClár a Thacaíonn le Daoine Breacaosta a chur ar aghaidh chuig:

Clár na Gaillimhe a Thacaíonn le Daoine Breacaosta,

F/ch Chomhairle Contae na Gaillimhe,

Pobal, Fiontar agus Forbairt Eacnamaíochta,

Cnoc na Radharc, Gaillimh

nó cuir ríomhphost chuig

agefriendly@galwaycoco.ie.

Chun tuilleadh faisnéise a fháil faoi aon rud thuas, téigh i dteagmháil le Caitríona McQuillan, Comhairle Contae na Gaillimhe ar 091 476510.



The Galway Age Friendly Programme was launched at a public meeting in Galway in September 2011. The Chair of the programme John Concannon committed to carrying out a county wide consultation process, to ensure that the Age Friendly strategy for Galway is informed by the views and priorities of older people and their own organisations. They are seeking your input and views which will help to inform the Age Friendly strategy for Galway.

If you would be interested in attending one of the workshops on the Galway islands, call Máire on 099 75096 or send an email to her at maire@oileain.ie



If you cannot attend a workshop you can still send your views or observations regarding the Age Friendly programme. Post your submission to:

**Galway Age Friendly Programme,
C/o Galway County Council,
Community, Enterprise & Economic Dev.,
Prospect Hill, Galway**

or email: agefriendly@galwaycoco.ie

For further information please contact Caitríona McQuillan, Galway County Council on 091 476510.



Comhar na nOileán Teoranta



Samhradh / Summer

Sonraí Teagmhála / Contact Details

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