



# Galway City Development Board NEWSLETTER

Autumn, 2007

Volume 1, Issue 24

*Welcome to the 24th issue of the Galway City Development Board's Newsletter*

## Children's Day Celebration in Eyre Square

Children's Day was held in Eyre Square on Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> July.

Activities included: the Amazing Amani Acrobats, Galway City and County Childcare Committee Mobile Playbus, Face Painters, The Agri-Aware Mobile Farm, and the Fire Engine. The Galway County Mobile Library featured story-telling circles. Among the live acts featured this year: A Band Called Wanda, Colin Devaney & his Band, Bobo and DJ Oisín and DJs Erin & Shannon. There was also Rugby, Basketball, Soccer and Football activities.

Children's Day has been a successful, annual event in Galway since 2002. Organised as a collaborative project between HSE West, Galway City Council, City of Galway VEC and the Galway City & County Childcare Committee, it is an opportunity to highlight the importance of children and families.



*Miguel of the Gombeen Theatre Company meets a Galway hurler of the future at Children's Day.*

## Welcome to New Members to the Board

*Galway City Development Board would like to extend a warm welcome to our newest board members.*



Cllr. Tom Costello,  
Mayor of the City of Galway



Cllr. Michael Crowe, Chair of the  
Transport and Infrastructure SPC

G A I L L I M H  
B E O A G U S B R Í O M H A R !



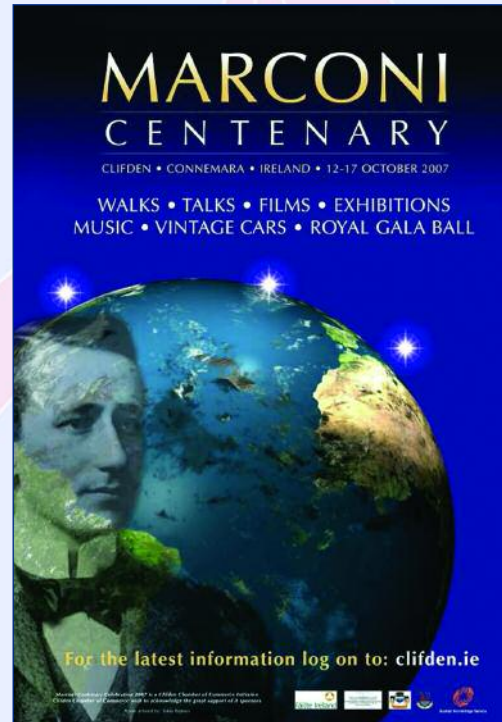
# CLIFDEN FESTIVAL CELEBRATES 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF MARCONI CONNECTION

Members of the E-Galway, sub-group of the Galway City Development Board are supporting celebrations of the 100th Anniversary of Marconi.

On October 17, 1907, a defining event in world communication occurred on a bog outside of Clifden, Connemara, Co. Galway, Ireland. The first commercial transatlantic message was transmitted from Guglielmo Marconi's Station in Clifden to his North American complex in Glace Bay, Newfoundland, Canada. This message effectively launched the concept of telecommunication accessibility for all. One hundred years later, the many achievements of this Irish-Italian genius will be honoured with a series of Marconi Centenary commemorative events from October 12th-17th 2007 in Clifden coordinated by the Clifden Chamber of Commerce. Marconi's daughter, Princess Elettra, with her son, Prince Guglielmo, will preside over the festivities which include:

- International Royal Gala Ball
- Guided walks of the Marconi Station with acclaimed archaeologist & historian, Michael Gibbons
- Operatic concert by 2007 Maria Callas Grand Prix winner, Celine Byrne
- The Connemara launch of Princess Elettra's book "Marconi - My Beloved"
- Lunchtime lecture series by noted Marconi historians
- Showings of Concetto LaMalfa's 2007 film about Guglielmo Marconi's impact on Connemara
- Exhibits from the Marconi Foundation in Bologna, Italy at the Clifden Station House Museum
- Vintage Car Rally.

A host of Italian, Canadian and Irish dignitaries and telecommunication industry leaders will be in attendance for the events. Clifden Town will be abuzz with music from Italy, Canada and Ireland throughout the week and local restaurants will



become trattorias of Italian delicacies.

For more information on the Marconi Centenary, contact Michele Hehir, Clifden Chamber of Commerce on 087-232-2451 or go to [www.clifden.ie](http://www.clifden.ie) for details.

The Marconi Centenary is supported by The Clifden Chamber of Commerce; Ireland West Tourism; the Marconi Foundation, Bologna, Italy; Galway County Council; the Radio Officers Assn; and the OPW.

## GALWAY'S WATERWAYS: IDENTIFYING FUTURE PRIORITIES EVENT

On Wednesday September 5th, 2007 members of the Natural Environment and Waterways Group held an event aimed at identifying the future priorities for Galway's Waterways. Attended by key stakeholders including Office of Public Works, Western Regional Fisheries Board, City Councillors, Lough Corrib Navigation Trustees, Fáilte Ireland West, Galway City Community Forum, Technical Staff from Galway City Council and Local Historians amongst others, the event encouraged input from all participants on the key priorities for the waterways.

To kick off proceedings Jim Coady (Coady Partnership Architects) presented an overview of the Galway Waterways Study, which was commissioned by Galway City Council and Galway Chamber in 1989. In addition, he highlighted the progress made since then and also outlined recommendations for future action. Following this briefing, participants were invited to break into smaller discussion groups so as to identify the key priorities for Galway's Waterways.

As a result of this process a number of key priorities for the waterways were identified involving strong interaction from all participants. Suggestions put forward included: the need to

construct the proposed Millennium Footbridge across the Corrib, Boardwalks along the canals, Lighting our waterways, the need for interpretative information and preservation of remaining industrial archaeology, developing the Hygeia building, and the pedestrianisation of Ravens Terrace amongst many other interesting proposals

Concluding the event Cllr Catherine Connolly (chair, Natural Environment and Waterways Group) complimented participants on the ideas and feedback generated, stating that these ideas and suggestions would be brought to the attention of the members of the Natural Environment and Waterways Group for further consideration and follow up. The recent funding allocation to Lough Corrib Navigation Trustees from Fáilte Ireland West for the revitalisation of the Eglington Canal was also highlighted. Watch this space for more developments on the waterways.



Cllr. Catherine Connolly, Chairperson of the Natural Environment and Waterways Group with Mr. Jim Coady, Coady Partnership Architects presenting an overview of the Galway



## NEW FORUM CELEBRATING CULTURAL DIVERSITY IN GALWAY CITY



Galway City Community Inter-Cultural Forum

Galway has seen a great increase in the presence of foreign immigrant populations; in response to this the Galway City Community Forum in partnership with Galway City Partnership is facilitating the establishment of the **Galway City Intercultural Forum**. As a representative voice for the many diverse cultures now living in the city, the Forum will be in a better position to meet the needs of their community groups rather than working in isolation. As the Intercultural Forum develops it may also be in a position to elect representatives to local development groups where they can meet city councillors or officials from local state agencies.

There are many good reasons to participate in the Forum. It will be up to the members to decide on how the Forum organises itself but it may get involved in activities ranging from organising Intercultural Festivals to identifying specific needs of ethnic minorities in the city. Examples of issues that the Forum may wish to highlight are the provision of English language classes and a meeting space in the city centre for new community groups. Finding a meeting space that is accessible to

members from all parts of the city is just one of the challenges facing new and existing community groups in Galway.

The First meeting has already taken place in the 11<sup>th</sup> of September, a second meeting has been scheduled for **Tuesday 2nd of October and will take place in the City Hall from 7-9pm**

We welcome participants from all ethnic and cultural community groups and representative organisations in Galway City.(end)

**For further information please contact:**

**Oisín Kenny**, Community Forum Co-ordinator  
Tel:091 536844 /E- mail:oisin.kenny@galwaycity.ie

**Alexandra Revez**, Intercultural Forum Support Worker  
Tel:091 536844/ E-mail:alexandra.revez@galwaycity.ie

**Ernest Bishop**, Co-ordinator of Galway City Anti-Racism

## GALWAY CITY SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

Sport is

*"all forms of physical activity which, through casual or organised participation, aim at expressing or improving physical fitness and mental well-being, forming social relationships or obtaining results in competitions at all levels."*  
- European Council

Galway City Sports Partnership (GCSP) is part of the Local Sports Partnership (LSP) network in Ireland. Local Sports Partnerships help promote sport and participation at a local level through information, education and co-ordination.

Information is one of the most powerful tools when it comes to promotion of sports and physical activity. GCSP has established a club directory and is constantly adding to club information on a weekly basis. The directory will be published and placed on the Internet with the view of raising the profile of club/groups in the city. Clubs/groups can also be placed on a database allowing them to receive information on upcoming training events and funding opportunities.

Clubs will be able to provide GCSP with their views and insights through the Sports Forum, a subgroup of Galway City Community Forum. A Representative from each of Outdoor Sports, Indoor Sports and Water Sports sit on the board of GCSP along with other stakeholders. These representatives were elected through

the Community Forum and have joined with an existing member of the Forum representing the Community and Voluntary sector.

Various programmes will be rolled out by GCSP over the coming months. Among these are the school based Buntús Play and Buntús Sport. Community Based Sports Activity Leaders course and the Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children in Sport. Other courses will include club officer training, capital grant funding workshops and sports specific workshops. While GCSP will roll out Irish Sports Council (ISC) programmes we will also be working with National Governing Bodies (NGBs) of sport to help co-ordinate the roll out of sport specific coaching courses at a local level. Aimed at increasing the level of overall knowledge of coaches and activity leaders the above courses will hopefully lead to an increase in numbers involved in sport in Galway.

**For further information about Galway City Sports Partnership or to register with GCSP contact:**

Jason Craughwell, Co-ordinator  
Galway City Sports Partnership,  
Community & Enterprise Department,  
City Hall, College Road, Galway  
091 - 536854



## BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN FOR GALWAY CITY

Biodiversity or biological diversity simply refers to the variety of living things on earth. This includes people, plants, animals, fungi and micro-organisms. Biodiversity is everywhere, from gardens to hedgerows, woodlands to wetlands, rivers to coastlines. We depend on biodiversity for clean air and water, healthy soils, food, building materials, and medicines. Nature around us also improves our quality of life. We interact with biodiversity every day, walking along the prom, children playing hide and seek in Barna woods, watching the swans in the Claddagh and the seasons change the colours of the wet meadows along the Corrib.

The Heritage Council are co-ordinating an exciting new initiative to produce Biodiversity Action Plans for eighteen local authorities, including Galway City Council. A Biodiversity Action Plan provides a framework for the conservation and management of our natural heritage. The Plan will propose actions for researching nature in the city, raising awareness of biodiversity, and for managing sites of nature conservation importance.

Galway City has a diverse range of natural habitats, many of which are of high biodiversity and wildlife value. These include wetlands along the Corrib, blanket bog to the west of the city, several urban woodlands, limestone pavement to the north of the city, and along

the coast, saltmarsh, sandy and rocky shores. Other more common wildlife habitats include hedgerows, unmanaged grasslands, stone walls and road verges. Galway city's rich natural heritage is a major part of its attraction and charm for tourists and residents.



Consultation is an essential part of the process to produce the Biodiversity Action Plan and input is welcomed from all interested parties. An Ecological Consultant is preparing the plan, in partnership with Galway City Council and a wide range of stakeholders. She can be contacted at the address provided below. Some issues or topics you might like to comment on are as follows:

- Special habitats, species or sites in your area
- Biodiversity awareness and education
- Threats to biodiversity within the city

Janice Fuller, Ballyshea, Craughwell, Co. Galway;  
E-mail [janicefuller@eircom.net](mailto:janicefuller@eircom.net)

### RAPID - Update

## Be part of a Local RAPID Area Forum



Galway City RAPID has been working closely with the Healthy Cities project to develop Community Gardens across the RAPID areas. The projects not only promote a healthy life style but also a sense of community participation and local volunteerism.

### Community Organic Gardens Ballybane's 'Harvest Day'

A celebration of the work of the participants in the Ballybane Community Organic Garden, took place on the 6<sup>th</sup> September 07 in unseasonable sunshine. The Mayor, Cllr Tom Costello, met with the participants of the project & local residents and sampled some of the food grown there.



The community organic garden was set up as part of the Galway Healthy Cities project in 2006. Key partners involved in the project include Ballybane Community Development Project, City Council, RAPID, HSE West, NUIG, Galway City VEC and GMIT. Participants are all from the local area of Ballybane and are involved in working in the garden. The overall objective of the project is to increase consumption of healthy food by empowering individuals to produce and cook organic vegetables in a socially benefiting setting.

"It really is a true partnership with all agencies having a role to play. For example, GMIT are providing the use of facilities for the cooking lessons and the City Council Parks

Department has provided the group with bedding plants for the Winter" stated Paul Hayes, CDP project worker. "The garden has really been of huge benefit to the local community in Ballybane" added Hayes.

The project will continue to run over the winter on Thursday mornings between 10am -12am . Anyone interested in becoming involved please contact Paul at 091 768308.

## SCOIL BHRIDE ORGANIC GARDEN WESTSIDE

Westside Organic Community Garden is situated on the grounds of Scoil Bhríde, Shantalla, Galway. The Project aims 'To provide a common ground for community members to work together, learn new skills and to promote an initiative that is positive both physically and mentally. To bring teaching out of the classroom for the children so that they may fully engage in the different plant and growth stages of vegetables, flowers, fruits and herbs. To promote healthy eating within the community. To use fruit and

vegetables grown organically in weekly cookery classes for resource/ special needs children in the school.'

The project was also used in a "Literacy through the Arts" summer scheme. The theme of the summer camp was "the sea". Volunteers sourced from the local Volunteer network are currently maintaining the garden during the school holiday months

People who are interested in the Project can contact Ger Fahy in Scoil Bhríde on 091 525052.

Galway City Development Board, c/o Community & Enterprise,  
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