

Focal id' Chluais.

A word in your ear. June '10.



The Presidents Visit to Gaeltacht Mhúscraí.

On the 29th of May the people of Gaeltacht Mhúscraí had the pleasure of a visit from President Mary McAleese and her husband Dr. Martin McAleese. President McAleese accepted an invitation sent by MFG Meitheal Mhúscraí to come and visit Gaeltacht Mhúscraí where she visited the three Gaeltacht parishes and left a very warm impression on us all. The first stop on the President's tour was Béal Átha'n Ghaorthaidh. President McAleese was greeted by local voluntary groups, Buíonn Piobairí Barra Naofa, a guard of honour by local school children and a large crowd of people when she arrived. The President then had a tour of the excellent facilities that are provided at Spraio na Laoi and Cuan Barra for children and the elderly. She gave a speech in which she emphasised the importance of community work, she praised the facilities and the services available at Cuan Barra and Spraio na Laoi and she also spoke about the great work that was being done at Coláiste na Mumhan to promote the Irish language. The President was then presented with a bouquet of flowers and a painting by children who attend the facilities and avail of the services. Before making the journey to Baile Mhúirne, the President's party took time out for a private visit to Gougane Barra.

There were a number of engagements in Baile Mhúirne, the first of these being a visit to the Abbey Hotel where she attended a celebration of community and voluntary work. There are over 100 local groups in Gaeltacht Mhúscraí. President McAleese highlighted this in her speech, "This is a remarkable number when you take into account that this area has a population of about 4000". These groups work in the areas of music, food, farming, history, social housing, youth clubs, and much more which were displayed by stands from every village in the Gaeltacht. The President spent time at each stand and was taken aback by the sheer volume of voluntary work in this area. President McAleese then gave a speech in both English and Irish in which she praised all the groups for undertaking work that is often overlooked. She said, "It is important that we acknowledge the efforts of all these people who make such a difference to life in Ireland. Without them, this country would be a very different place. We don't want to imagine what life would be like in our beloved country without the input of so many volunteers". President McAleese also spoke about the word Meitheal. She said, "The word Meitheal is one of my favourite words. There is no single word in English which conveys the sense of community involvement and care that is an intrinsic part of the Meitheal. I think this area has a special claim on the word". It is from these values that Meitheal Mhúscraí's name originates. The President was then presented with a beautiful hamper by Séamas De Róiste which was packed full of excellent products that are produced locally here in Gaeltacht Mhúscraí.

The next stop for the President was a concert in the Ionad Cultúrtha where on route a guard of honour was provided by local school children. This concert was part of the Féile Bealtaine celebrations for the audience which included older people from the locality who regularly use the facilities in the Ionad Áise, Ionad Cultúrtha, Cuan Barra and Cois Cille. The President highlighted the importance of older people in our community and praised the work being done by them and for them in the area. She also spoke of the rich tradition of music, song and art in the area. Everyone in the Ionad Cultúrtha was treated to some excellent entertainment provided by local talent. Bríd Cranitch presented President McAleese with a piece of studio glass by artist Maura Whelan. After the concert the scoraíocht continued when the group went to the Abbey Hotel for a meal followed by a sing song and a raffle.

The final stop of the President's trip to was to the Ionad Áise in Réidh na nDoirí where a large crowd had gathered. The visit gave special recognition to over 70 adult learners who were receiving FETAC certs. President McAleese addressed the adult learners and then unveiled a mosaic which was made by Muintir na Gréine, and a plaque to commemorate her visit to the area. We were all grateful for the Presidents visit and she will always be welcome in Gaeltacht Mhúscraí. Anne Labrosse, Meitheal Mhúscraí presented President McAleese with a beautiful pen and ink work of art titled 'Teacht le chéile' by Bernadette Ní Choitir from Béal Átha'n Ghaorthaidh which depicts the five local villages by five local poems and songs surrounded by a listing of the 100 active voluntary groups and the coming together of the Sullane and Lee rivers. It was this 'teacht le chéile' and the hard work by everyone in Gaeltacht Mhúscraí that made the Presidents visit possible.

mfg-Meitheal Mhúscraí, Réidh na nDoirí, Maigh Chromtha, Co Chorcaí.

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Disclaimer: We take great care to research the information contained in this publication. It is, to the best of our knowledge, accurate and up-to-date at the time of publication. Our aim is to provide useful information to those who receive Focal id' Chluais. MFG-Meitheal Mhúscraí cannot accept any liability for any loss or damage arising as a result of reliance on this information.

Cois Cille, Cill na Martra 026-40999.

Lunch Mon, Tues, Wed, & Friday 12.30pm.

Lunch must be booked in advance.

Transport available at 026 45661.

Chiropodist, end of June by appointment, 026 40999.

Massage, by appointment. Contact 087 6759121

For further details contact 026 40999.

Cuan Barra, Béal Átha'n Ghaorthaidh.

Lunch, Mondays & Fridays 12.30pm.

To book call Siobhán/Lucy 087 1378099.

Transport available at 026 45661.

Aisling Ní Laoire Beauty Therapist.

17th of June by appointment, 087 6579894.

Dr Ken Harte each Wednesday 12.00 – 1.00pm.

Chiropodist, 28th of June by appointment.

Contact Ann O Donovan at 027 50340 / 086 3679761.

For further details contact 026 47777.

Answers to last month's puzzles.

Puzzles: Question time.

1. A heart. 2. Quickly 3. No, bats are not blind

4. These were the ships that sailed to America under the command of Christopher Columbus.

5. Yellow 6. 5 Arms 7. Big Friendly Giant 8. A prune

9. Captain E J Smith 10. The Aran Islands.

Quick Puzzle.

Using only horizontal and vertical lines, connect every number to its pair (i.e. 1 goes to 1, 2 goes to 2, etc). The lines must not cross each other. I recommend using a pencil and rubber to solve this puzzle. Good Luck!!!

				1	2	
				4		
		1				4
3				2		3

Brain Boggler.

What has 5(sometimes 4) hands but is normal?

Scoraíocht an Déardaoin.

Instead of the usual scoraíochtaí in the Ionad Áise in Réidh na nDoirí and Cois Cille in Cill na Martra we will be going to Gougane Barra on **Tuesday the 15th** of this month for lunch and a scoraíocht. To book your place ring 026 45661 or Cois Cille at 026 40999 before Friday the **11th of June** please. Transport available.

Rachel Allen's White Chocolate Buns

Ingredients: Makes 12 buns

75g (3oz) butter

125g (5oz) white chocolate, chopped

75g (3oz) caster sugar

150g (6oz) plain flour

½ tsp baking powder

2 eggs

½ tsp vanilla extract

1. Preheat the oven to 170°C (325°F) Gas mark 3 and line a bun tray with 12 paper bun cases

2. In a medium-sized saucepan on a low heat melt the butter and then add 75g (3oz) white chocolate and the caster sugar and stir until the chocolate has melted and the sugar dissolved. Stir to mix and set aside to cool for 2 minutes.

3. Meanwhile, sift the flour and baking powder into a large mixing bowl and add in the remaining chocolate. Beat the eggs in a separate bowl. Add the beaten egg and vanilla extract to the chocolate mixture, stir to mix and then pour into the dry ingredients, folding it together. Pour the mixture into the bun cases and bake in the oven for 16-20 minutes until pale golden and just firm on top. Remove from the oven, take the buns out of the bun tray and leave to cool on a wire rack.

The Boy and the Sweets.

A boy put his hand into a jar full of sweets. He grasped as many as he could possibly hold, but when he tried to pull out his hand, he was prevented from doing so by the neck of the jar. Unwilling to lose his sweets, and yet unable to withdraw his hand, he burst into tears and bitterly lamented his disappointment. A bystander said to him, "Be satisfied with half the quantity, and you will readily draw out your hand."

Do not attempt too much at once.

Famous Birthdays in June.

Michael O'Hehir1st 1920

Marilyn Monroe1st 1926

Tom Jones7th 1940

