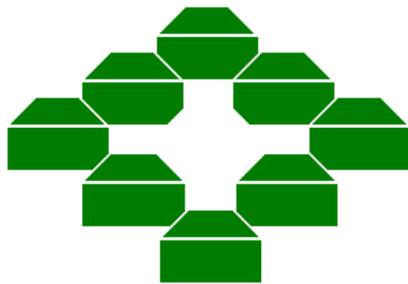


**muintir na tíre**



building better communities  
building better communities

---

## **Contents**

<b>1.</b>	President's Address	<b>1 - 3</b>
<b>2.</b>	Directors' Report	<b>4 - 7</b>
<b>3.</b>	Treasurer's Report and Summary Account 2006	<b>8 - 11</b>
<b>4.</b>	National Director of Services Report	<b>12 - 13</b>
<b>5.</b>	Community Alert Report	<b>14 - 15</b>
<b>6.</b>	70 year Conference	<b>16 - 18</b>
<b>7.</b>	Information Pack for Older People Launch	<b>19</b>
<b>8.</b>	Community Councils Activities	<b>20 - 21</b>
<b>9.</b>	Resolutions	<b>22</b>
<b>10.</b>	Board Members	<b>23</b>



## 1. President's Address

Ladies and gentlemen, you are very welcome to the Annual General Meeting of 2007.

Muintir na Tíre celebrates the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its foundation this year. We commemorate the death of Canon Hayes who passed on to his eternal reward on 30 January 1957. John Canon Hayes was a man brimful of Christian charity, vision and hope. His boundless energy was the envy of people who knew him and who marvelled at his daily programme, his work achievements and his total commitment to his priestly duties side by side with his day to day direction and development of Muintir na Tíre as a national organisation. Perhaps it was his unfailing optimism and pragmatism that carried him forth and enabled him to be the extraordinary leader, orator and kindest human being that he was. Canon Hayes founded his dynamic self-help movement to promote human rights, alleviate poverty, counterbalance emigration and empower people to build sound family based communities through local participation and ongoing active involvement. His ethos and philosophy are exemplified today in your commitment and are as relevant in Ireland now as they were 70 years ago.



Seventy years is a long time and I believe that Muintir na Tíre stands alone in its unique record of national achievements and community development. This organisation still embraces a solid commitment to community development and care in its widest form at both national and local level. Looking back we see that Muintir na Tíre has been involved in several major community development projects at national level. Turf cutting provided fuel during the second world war when coal was not available. Parish halls and community centres were built, here the parish family met, discussed and planned the welfare and advancement of the communal family within the parish. Muintir na Tíre played a huge role in the expansion of the Rural Electrification Scheme, to bring electricity to homes, farms and places of business throughout rural Ireland. This scheme is generally recognised as having the greatest social and economic impact on Rural Ireland. Muintir na Tíre's Parish Plan for Agriculture was accepted as the best foundation guide to good farming practices in Ireland in the early fifties and was well ahead of any other advisory programme available to farmers at that time. Local amenity development was engaged upon and environmental awareness was promoted and supported.



---

The Limerick Rural Survey, a pilot research study and analysis to promote development of small and medium sized industries suitable for the Irish economy, was acknowledged for its authentic research, enlightened economic recommendations and social principles. Following on rural electrification, the provision of domestic water supply in many towns and villages as well as the more rural areas, through the group water schemes, brought relief from the drudgery of drawing water for domestic use and for farm needs, indeed it was welcomed as one of the great labour and time saving physical realities of daily life in rural Ireland at that time. Vocational education was provided in towns and villages where there were no second level schools. Citizen's Information Provision was piloted and promoted, as were the Credit Union Movement, Tourism in Ireland and Tidy Towns Competitions. Job creation as an alternative to emigration was always a priority for Muintir na Tíre. Setting up and operating Community Alert (in partnership with An Garda Síochána) was a response to safety concerns of rural communities in the early eighties. That was a sample from over thirty different projects originated and developed exclusively by Muintir na Tíre in the past 70 years.

From the beginning Muintir na Tíre encouraged and educated people to engage in the advancement and development of their own areas and to identify and address the local needs and problems. The movement stands proudly on its long history of community development, facilitated and accomplished through the commitment, empowerment and responsibility of its members.

You are Muintir na Tíre today. You are the community leaders and activists whose caring disposition and capability can enhance and promote best quality of life within your communities. The Muintir ethos and principles of Christian charity, good neighbourliness and community care are safe in your keeping.

To day the growing diversity of ethnic cultures as well as the increasing number of residents in sprawling estates through out our land can be and are included in local community activities and local community councils welcome their interest and input while respecting their diversity and difference. The Community Council is the basic structure on which to build development programmes that are consistent with and meet the needs of the people at local level. Council members, who are democratically elected and serve their community in a responsible proactive manner, will ensure that their community has a vibrant future. There is a sense of belonging and good neighbourliness, of sharing and of caring that sustains their interest and guides their action. They act on behalf of their communities, monitoring local needs, advocating with Government Departments and Local Authorities on their behalf.



---

Community Council members have the track record of local community planning, networking, growth and development, of interaction and advancement, combined with the experience of working together in real understanding of local needs and the benefits that can be negotiated and advanced on behalf of their communities. Such skill and experience added to their own commitment supports the community and creates a human and social capital beyond monetary speculation or value.

Muintir na Tíre will continue to support community development, advocate on behalf of Community Councils, facilitate training and capacity building and generally network to build links with community councils throughout the land. We are committed to the elimination of isolation and poverty and are confident that the Community Alert programme will extend to rural parishes everywhere. Muintir members personify the very best example of active citizenship in Ireland today.

In conclusion, may I most sincerely acknowledge your commitment and the wealth of social capital you create at local and at national levels. May I thank each and every one who travelled and attended our Annual General Meeting this evening. I thank my colleagues on the Board and all staff members in Head Office for their support and excellent work. Thank you to our Community Alert Development Officers. Thank you to the members of the Garda Community Relations, in Dublin and to the Gardaí who participate in and support the Community Alert Programmes. I would like to thank Michael Lynch, past president of Muintir na Tíre for his continuous assistance. To Tom Fitzgerald in Head Office, may I say sincere thank you, your direction and advice is much appreciated.

Finally, thanks to Muintir people whose volunteering generosity must keep Canon Hayes smiling on you and on us too, I hope.

***Margaret O'Doherty***

**President**



## 2. Directors' Report

Since the last Annual General Meeting of Muintir na Tíre held on the 16 June 2006, a total of seven meetings of the Board were held in Canon Hayes House.

At the first meeting of the incoming Board on the 15 July 2006, the existing officers were re-elected as follows:

- Office of President: Margaret O'Doherty
- Office of National Treasurer: Patrick McCabe
- Office of National Secretary: Dermot O'Donnell



The Board is made up of thirteen members.

### **Celebrating Seventy Years of Muintir na Tíre and the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Death of Canon Hayes**

The seventy years of Muintir na Tíre were commemorated in Tipperary, Murroe and Bansha by special events organised between 9 February and 10 March 2007.

#### **Tipperary**

A two day Conference celebrating 70 years of Muintir na Tíre was held in Ballykisteen Hotel and Golf Resort on 9 and 10 March 2007. A gala dinner was held on the Friday night which was attended by hundreds of delegates and friends and addressed by Éamon Ó Cuív, T.D., Minister for Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, who spoke on the theme of Muintir na Tíre and Rural Development.

Various speakers contributed to the event over the course of the two days. These included Éamonn De Stafort, Tourism Consultant; Fergus Finlay, CEO, Barnardos; Fr Sean Healy, SMA, Director, CORI Justice; Michael Browne, Consultant Researcher, Citizens Information Board; Dr Tony Varley, NUI, Galway; John Lonergan, Governor of Mountjoy Prison; Rosaline Drew, National Director of Services, Muintir na Tíre and Liam Kelly, National Community Alert Co-Ordinator, Muintir na Tíre.

#### **Bansha**

On February 9 An Taoiseach, Mr Bertie Ahern T.D., laid a wreath on the grave of Canon Hayes and addressed a large gathering of people. Later in the afternoon he attended an



exhibition in the local GAA Hall of memorabilia covering the lifetime of Canon Hayes. On February 10 Archbishop Dermot Clifford celebrated Mass in the Parish Church. On Sunday 11 February, Fr Dan Dwyer, P.P. rededicated the local Lourdes Grotto, erected in the early fifties by Canon Hayes. The local organising committee are to be congratulated on the excellence of the arrangements for these events. It is also the intention of the committee to publish a book on Muintir na Tíre and Canon Hayes later in the year.

### **Murroe**

On Friday 16 February a lecture was given on Muintir na Tíre and Canon Hayes by Fr Harry Bohan in the local Muintir na Tíre Hall. On Sunday 18 February, Archbishop Dermot Clifford celebrated Mass in the parish church and concluded with the unveiling of a plaque to the memory of Canon Hayes who was born in Murroe on 11 November 1887. All events were attended by Muintir na Tíre's President, Board Members, Staff, the relatives of the Hayes family and a large number of friends and parishioners from the three parishes.

### **Strategic Development Plan**

For a great part of the year, the Board has been involved in the drafting of a Strategic Development Plan 2007 – 2013 for Muintir na Tíre. Muintir consulted with our units in addition to Mr Ciaran Lynch of Tipperary Institute and Dr Tony Varley of NUI, Galway. Mr Philip Mudge of *wayoveryonder trainingfacilitationdevelopment* was appointed as Facilitator to the Board. It is now a requirement on all voluntary organisations to provide a detailed development and business plan for all Government Departments when seeking funding for their planned activities. The Board wishes to express their thanks and appreciation to all involved in the drawing up of the Plan and in particular the staff at Canon Hayes House.

### **National Director of Services Report**

The Director of Services continues to provide support to the national network of Community Councils in addition to fulfilling her administrative duties at Head Office. Requests are regularly received from Community Councils for advice, training and support but due to the heavy workload the Director of Services is not always in a position to attend meetings around the country and be present in the office the next day. This is an impossible task as she is working in an already overstretched situation and that situation cannot be allowed to continue.

### **National Community Alert**

Community Alert is the National Community Crime Prevention programme organised by Muintir na Tíre in partnership with An Garda Síochána.



---

### **The Merville Experience**

In 1996 a Community Alert scheme, aimed at preventing attacks on elderly people living alone in the Merville area, was launched. The main objective was to encourage people in the area to help protect their elderly and vulnerable neighbours. A committee, under the chairmanship of William McCorkell, was set up to organise the Community Alert scheme and give guidance and advice on crime prevention and security procedures, and also to raise the level of alertness of everyone in the community. Eleven years on and the Committee are still very active and assure the community that Merville is still a safe place to live in today. The first task the Committee took on was the security of senior citizens' homes, and together with Action Inishowen, they installed fire alarms and safety chains for doors on hundreds of homes in the area free of charge. The Committee spend their time visiting the elderly and installing lifelines and security lights. Community Alert signs have been erected in additional places in the area.

### **Interreg Project**

Marion Sinnott is now acting as Community Co-Ordinator for the E-Volve project.

### **Visit to Áras an Uachtaráin**

At the invitation of President Mary McAleese, our President, Margaret O'Doherty, and other officers of Muintir na Tíre, attended a reception in Áras an Uachtaráin on 25 October 2006 as one of the many voluntary groups involved in promoting quality of life in local communities.

### **Active Citizenship Task Force**

Muintir na Tíre has co-operated with this body, and members attended all consultation meetings held some months ago throughout the country. The Muintir na Tíre Board also made a submission during the year to this body.

### **Forás Éireann**

Board member, Jerry Bracken, continues to represent Muintir na Tíre's interest at regular meetings of Forás Éireann, which are held in Dublin.

### **The Wheel**

Michael Lynch, past President of Muintir na Tíre, continues to hold a watching brief at national conferences of this organisation and plays an important public relations role for us. A recent conference of The Wheel considered the implications of the new Charities Bill for voluntary bodies if the incoming government passes the many proposals.



### **Retention of Local Post Offices Campaign**

Muintir na Tíre has pledged support for the campaign for the retention of local post offices nationwide. The Muintir President has used the media at every opportunity to make known Muintir na Tíre's views on the implications for the viability of rural communities if post offices are closed.

### **Financial Matters**

The audited accounts for the year, which will be presented to the AGM by Pat McCabe, National Treasurer and our Auditors, show a very satisfactory financial situation.

Financial controls are in place and budgets are strictly adhered to. The Board wishes to thank Mary Ryan in Head Office for her commitment work in this important area of administration.

### **Papal Decoration for Bernie Kearney**

The *Bene Merenti* is a Papal Decoration presented for outstanding Christian service. On February 2007, Bishop Christopher Jones of Elphin presented Bernie Kearney, National Community Alert Development Officer with this Award from Pope Benedict XV1 on the occasion of the re-Dedication of St. Brigid's Church, Four-Mile-House, Co Roscommon. Members of Muintir na Tíre congratulated Bernie Kearney on receiving this prestigious decoration.



### **Welcome to New co-opted Member of the Board**

The Board meeting of the 24 March 2007 co-opted Mr Martin Quinn of Tipperary as a member of the Board. Martin comes from Bansha and has been involved with the organisation from an early age. He played a leading role in organising the commemorative events in Bansha last March.

### **Civic Reception for Muintir na Tíre by South Tipperary County Council**

On Friday 1 June 2007, the Cathaoirleach of South Tipperary County Council, Joe Donovan, hosted a civic reception at Áras an Chontae, Clonmel, for the Board and staff of Muintir na Tíre, and the relatives of Canon Hayes, in recognition of the organisation's seventieth anniversary. Councillor Donovan spoke of the tremendous work carried out by Muintir na Tíre in communities nationwide since its foundation by Canon Hayes in 1937. Those attending had the pleasure of listening to the voice of Canon Hayes on the occasion of the turning on of the electricity in Bansha in 1948 (by courtesy of Martin Quinn and the RTE archives).

***Dermot O'Donnell***

**National Secretary**



### 3. Treasurer's Report and Summary Accounts 2006

Set out in the following two pages is a summary of the accounts of the Board of Muintir na Tíre for the year ended 31 December 2006 prepared by our Auditors Noonan O'Conneide & Co. Tipperary Town.



Muintir na Tíre is funded by the following:

- **Community Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs:**

The funding from the above Department covers Salaries for the Administrator, Director of Services and part-time secretary. It also covers all administrative expenditure and upkeep of Head Office.

- **Department of Justice:**

Community Alert programme

- **Health Service Executive:**

Community Alert Programme

The funding from the above Departments covers Salaries, Administration and Subsistence costs for the five Community Alert Development Officers and Coordinator of the Community Alert Programme.

- **Citizens Information Board:**

This was a once off grant from the Citizens Information Board for a project on Information for older people for use by volunteers

- **Victims of Crime:**

This account is largely stagnant. As has occurred with other organisations in this area there has been very limited request for the service. Funding is ring fenced and cannot be used for any other purpose other than granted.

As can be seen from the accounts funding is subject to Departmental accounting rules and is only issued when accounts are certified by Departmental Finance sections. It should also be understood that all Departmental Funding is issued on an annual basis and no guarantee is given for funding beyond the end of the current financial year at any time.



---

The Treasurer gives a financial report to the Board at each meeting. The financial sub-committee includes Patrick McCabe, Tom Connolly, and Killian Kenny. Their role is to oversee the finances and source funding for the organisation.

The affiliation fee for Community Councils remains at 150.00 euro and 35.00 euro for Community Alert Groups.

Improvements are being carried out on an on going basis at Head Office thanks to FAS community employment scheme.

We are looking forward to a successful 2007.

***Pat McCabe***

**National Treasurer**



**Balance Sheet**  
**as at 31 December 2006**

	<u>Notes</u>	<u>2006</u>		<u>2005</u>	
		€	€	€	€
<b>Fixed Assets</b>					
Tangible assets	<b>6</b>		112,923		124,614
Investments			444		444
			<u>113,367</u>		<u>125,058</u>
<b>Current Assets</b>					
Stock of stationery	<b>7</b>	1,200		1,200	
Debtors & Prepayments	<b>8</b>	48,904		6,285	
Cash at bank - Friends of Muintir		307		124	
Cash at bank and in hand		49,020		86,846	
Cash at bank - Projects		<u>58,385</u>		<u>65,386</u>	
		157,816		159,841	
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	<b>9</b>		<u>(50,319)</u>		<u>(75,993)</u>
			(50,319)		(75,993)
<b>Net Current Assets</b>			<u>107,497</u>		<u>83,848</u>
<b>Total Assets Less Current Liabilities</b>			<u>220,864</u>		<u>208,906</u>
<b>Capital and Reserves</b>					
Capital Grants	<b>10</b>		14,099		14,099
Reserves	<b>11</b>		245,314		245,314
Accumulated Surplus/Deficit			<u>(38,549)</u>		<u>(50,507)</u>
			<u>220,865</u>		<u>208,906</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board on 2 June 2007 and signed on its behalf by

**Patrick McCabe - Director**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Margaret O'Doherty - Director**

\_\_\_\_\_



**Summary of Income and Expenditure  
for the year ended 31 December 2006**

	<b><u>2006</u></b>		<b><u>2005</u></b>	
	€	€	€	€
<b><u>Muintir na Tíre - Head Office - Schedule A</u></b>				
Income	115,560		140,910	
Administrative Expenses	(116,260)		(103,439)	
Net Surplus/(Deficit)		(700)		37,471
<b><u>Community Alert No 3 - Schedule 1</u></b>				
Income	92,055		80,154	
Expenses	(92,268)		(95,638)	
Net Surplus/(Deficit)		(213)		(15,484)
<b><u>Community Alert No 4 - Schedule 2</u></b>				
Income	175,203		120,609	
Expenses	(175,081)		(165,444)	
Net Surplus/(Deficit)		122		(44,835)
<b><u>Director of Services - Schedule 3</u></b>				
Income	47,000		47,000	
Expenses	(60,218)		(71,200)	
Net Surplus/(Deficit)		(13,218)		(24,200)
<b><u>Comhairle - Schedule 4</u></b>				
Income	16,000		-	
Expenses	(14,937)		-	
Net Surplus/(Deficit)		1,063		-
<b><u>Victims of Crime - Schedule 5</u></b>				
Income	25,000		-	
Expenses	(96)		-	
Net Surplus/(Deficit)		24,904		-
<b>Overall Surplus/(Deficit) for year</b>		<b><u>11,958</u></b>		<b><u>(47,048)</u></b>



#### **4. National Director of Services Report**

Muintir na Tíre is seen by many as a 'one stop shop' and during the past 12 months I have been faced with many challenges. Many issues faced at Head Office are increasingly of a legal nature, which can prove very time-consuming to deal with. Much of my time has been taken up with crisis management with the result that little time has been available for dealing with strategic issues.



I continue to provide support single-handedly to the national network of Muintir na Tíre Community Councils – the staffing situation remains the same as outlined in 2005 and 2006.

In addition to my work at Head Office I am dealing every day with our network of over 200 Community Councils and there is now a much heavier administrative burden on volunteers than heretofore. While Muintir na Tíre has an enormous network of volunteers across the length and breadth of Ireland we need to have more people employed to provide these volunteers with the required level of training and support.

It is necessary for groups to have a proper structure to be in a position to avail of various funding opportunities, to help them to develop their community facilities and thereby improve the community's potential to enjoy a better quality of life. I will continue to work with Community Councils on the ground in setting up structures or addressing the shortcomings of their existing structures to enable them participate fully in society.

During 2006 Muintir na Tíre was represented at all of the regional consultation meetings on the Taskforce on Active Citizenship throughout the country. As part of the consultation process, the Taskforce established a number of sub-groups to engage with stakeholders in particular sectors and Muintir na Tíre were invited to take part and had input into that process.

We are delighted that our application for INTERREG funding for the E-Volve Project was successful. Marion Sinnott, Community Coordinator for the project commenced work in February 2007. Marion has recently completed a series of workshops with Community Councils and Community Alert groups in the South-Eastern part of the country and the final results are being collated at the present time. The findings of these workshops are indicative of the supports required by all Community Groups and we will endeavour to address these



---

needs in a targeted way to economically and socially disadvantaged communities across the country.

We are delighted that Muintir could provide a place for Work Placement for Catherine McGrath, a student of Rural Development at Tipperary Institute. The work in Muintir complements Catherine's studies as she approaches her 3<sup>rd</sup> year in Rural Development. A special thanks is due to Catherine for collating this Annual Report and working very closely with the printers in the design of the document.

### **The Future**

There are many challenges facing the national organisation of Muintir na Tíre and also the communities on the ground. Under the new Programme for Government it is heartening to note that the Government recognises the importance and value of strong local communities and to ensure that this facet of Irish life remains strong, the Government has plans to initiate funding for a new scheme called the Community Development Plan. We are entering a very exciting time in terms of rural development in Ireland and Muintir na Tíre looks forward to more resources to underpin the voluntary effort. We look forward to maintaining and expanding the level of service to our units. We will continue to liaise between the voluntary interest and public authorities on matters of relevance to community development. Given adequate financial support we will develop and expand the network of structures at local level.

Muintir na Tíre has kept its vision alive without diverting from its core purpose for the last 70 years – to provide structures to enable Community Councils to operate in a totally democratic manner.

As a National Organisation with in excess of 1500 units, which include Community Councils and Community Alert groups, we have a plan and we have a vision going forward and I look forward to the future with optimism.

**Rosaline Drew**  
National Director of Services



## 5. Community Alert Report

The Community Alert programme has evolved considerably since its beginnings in February 1985 to date. There is considerable input into the programme by Muintir na Tíre through its Community Alert Development Officers and volunteers on the local Community Alert committees throughout the country. This is mirrored by the input of staff at Garda Community Relations, Garda Headquarters, Harcourt Sq., Dublin, and Garda Crime Prevention Officers and by the local Garda Superintendents, Inspectors, Sergeants and Gardaí at District and Sub District Level throughout Ireland. In 1985 when Community Alert was founded there were 432 attacks (some fatal) on older people in Rural Ireland.



Community Alert has played a consistent role in maintaining this trend by educating local community members in crime prevention and community safety. It is widely accepted that most criminals are opportunists. As community members there is an onus on all of us to ensure that such opportunities are not readily available to intending criminals.

The Community Alert Programme presents communities in rural Ireland with a unique opportunity: that of promoting the best quality of life for all people of rural Ireland and in particular older persons.

Muintir na Tíre's philosophy and approach instils the idea of self-help and self-reliance in Irish communities, enabling them to improve the social, economic, cultural and environmental conditions in their areas. The Community Alert programme is the cornerstone of good community policing encouraging full co-operation at all times with and the transmission of time sensitive information to An Garda Síochána.

### **ICE Card**

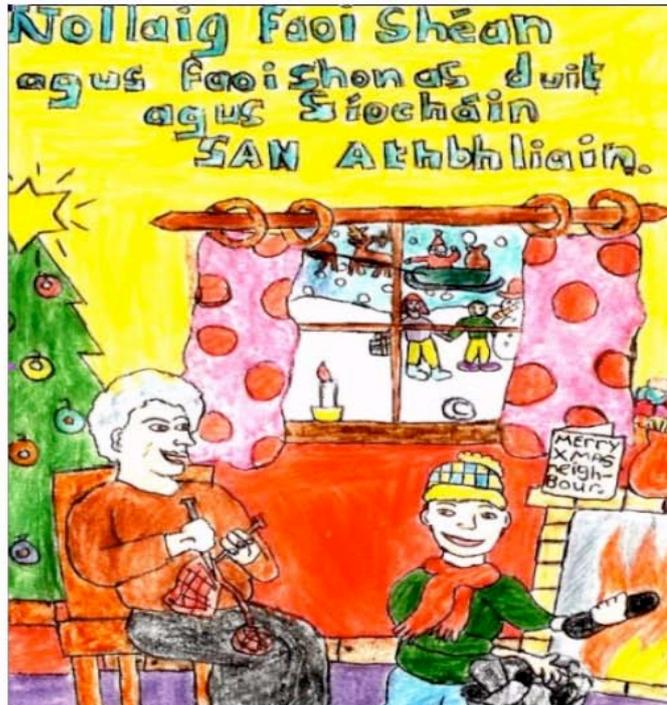
The ICE initiative was launched in West Cork earlier this year by eight local Credit Unions in partnership with Muintir na Tíre/Community Alert, An Garda Síochána and the Road Safety Authority. ICE aims to ensure the provision of crucial contact numbers on mobile phones and on special cards. ICE stands for "*In Case of Emergency*" and an ICE number is a contact number added to your mobile phone directory. Each entry begins with the letters ICE followed by the name of the person the phone owner wants contacted in the event of an emergency.



## Schools Art Competition

A very successful Christmas Art Competition was run once again this year with funding from Barry's Tea. The competition went nationwide for the first time. The national winner was Aoife Corcoran, 11 years, Gloster, Lusmagh, Banagher Co. Offaly. The winning entry was used as the Christmas card for the organisation this year.

Winner



Runner-up



**Liam Kelly**

**National Coordinator Community Alert**



## 6. 70 Year Conference

Muintir na Tíre this year celebrates 70 years in existence. The organisation held their Annual Conference this year at Ballykisteen Hotel & Golf Resort in Limerick Junction on Friday and Saturday, the 9th and 10th of March. *"The Tipperary People"* was invited to report on proceedings.



After a lovely dinner on the Friday, we were addressed by Éamon Ó Cuív, Minister for Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs. The Minister paid tribute to the hard work and dedication of Tipperary man Tom Fitzgerald who has done so much for Muintir and his community over the years. He is well deserving of such appreciation.

Another speaker Éamonn De Stafort outlined the spirit of Muintir on rural development. He concluded by saying: *"We will be judged not by our plans and aspirations but by what we have performed and carried to fruition"*.

Then the mood lightened and we were treated to a fantastic display of Irish dancing and music. This was appropriate because Muintir is an organisation that takes pride in our own unique native cultural achievements.

Muintir President Margaret O'Doherty welcomed us to Saturday's programme with an address, which referred to Mark Tierney's book on Canon Hayes, the movement's founder. This book, the President remarked, *"has become our Bible in Muintir"*. She stressed the importance of the wider community in nurturing all of its members, quoting an African proverb: *"It takes a village to rear a child"*.

Fergus Finlay, CEO of Barnardos, followed on with his discussion of *"The Child and the Family"*. He referred to the Proclamation of 1916's aim to *"cherish all the children of the nation equally"* and wondered who exactly those children will be in 2016. He concluded by quoting the Chilean poet Gabriela Mistral's poem *"His Name Is Today"*: *"Many things we need can wait but the child cannot"*.



Sean Healy of CORI's discourse was entitled *"The Adult and the Community"* and he focussed on the people who seem to be excluded from Ireland's Celtic Tiger-driven success. He pointed out that there is, despite our wealth, a lack of well-being in current Irish society and a lack of fairness.

Research consultant with the Citizens Information Board, Michael Browne opened our eyes to the situation of older people in our society whom he preferred to call our *"elders"*. *"There is much that needs to be done to involve older people more fully in society and utilise the massive experience and resources"* they have for the betterment of community life.

Dr Tony Varley of NUI Galway's talk was an overview of the history of Muintir na Tíre. Frank McCarthy, Project Manager, E-Volve Project, gave a presentation outlining the background to the project. It is targeted at those working with people with disabilities and the elderly. It sets up the online publication of community information and promotes communication through email and mobile messaging.

One of the most enjoyable discourses of the whole event was given by Bansha man and Governor of Mountjoy Prison, John Lonergan. He is old enough to remember Canon Hayes. He views the campaigning cleric as *"a prophet, a leader, a charismatic"*. We see today in society evidence of the very things he prophesised. Today society serves the economy but it should be the other way around. There was never a *"Golden Era"*



when everything was rosy - each decade had its challenges and problems. Build from the ground up - the foundation is the local community. Canon Hayes predicted we would become obsessed with materialism - how true that is today! The shopping centre has taken over from the community. Shopping malls are our new cathedrals. People need a sense of belonging. Edmund Rice remarked: *"If we command our wealth we shall be rich and free; if our wealth commands us we shall be poor indeed"*. Mr Lonergan continued: *"People who*



*challenge and criticise are called whingers and moaners but they are necessary for change. Never be satisfied with what you get. Go and look for more".* Some people have too much, others too little. Life isn't fair. Don't forget: *"You don't make it on your own, others help to get you there"*. Canon Hayes walked the walk; he put his own principles into action. People today are overly negative. We are a miserable lot. A schoolgirl came home one day to tell her mother she had got 19 out of 20 spellings correct in a test that day in class. Instead of commending her achievements, the mother negatively asked: *"Which one did you get wrong?"* Can we learn a lesson from that experience to always accentuate the positive? Encourage your children. Don't always be pointing out what they're doing wrong. In life generally, employ a kind word, a kind smile, a kind gesture. Make kindness part of your everyday experience. If kindness doesn't work, nothing will. There's no need to preach your virtues if you live by them. Mr Lonergan concluded by quoting a poem, which read in part: *"I'd rather you walked with me than show me the way"*. His talk was a very positive, good-humoured, up building part of the programme yet he got his message across in a most effective way.

After Rosaline Drew, Director of Services for Muintir, gave an update on current Muintir activity, there were presentations from two Muintir communities, Ballyduff in Co. Waterford and Kilworth, Co. Cork. Liam Kelly, Co-ordinator of Community Alert, encouraged us to *"be active, be alert, be involved"*. Vanessa Clarke summed up the programme for us and President Margaret O'Doherty had the final word with a plea to make post office closures in rural areas an election issue.



The two-day's programme was very enjoyable and it's obvious that the people involved in Muintir na Tíre take pride in their work and in their community and despite the changing environment in modern Ireland they firmly believe they have a role to play. Community spirit and helping your neighbour are principles that will never die.

[extract from Tipperary Voice, article by Jason O'Donnell]



## **7. Information Pack for Older People Launch**

On Thursday evening the 26 October 2006, Muintir na Tíre Community Alert programme launched its new Information Pack for Older People for use by Volunteers at a very enjoyable function in the Excel Tipperary Town.

Mr Brendan Cummins Tipperary All Star Goalkeeper launched the booklet. In the course of his speech Brendan referred to the fact that *"it is nice to think that as we reach old age there are people in the community looking out for us"*.



The Community Alert Programme is Ireland's rural crime prevention programme founded in the eighties by Muintir na Tíre. Community Alert is organised locally by volunteers in partnership with Muintir na Tíre and An Garda Síochána.

Currently there are over 1,250 Community Alert Groups around the country. The aim is to prevent crime and promote the safety and best quality of life of the community in general and in particular, the more vulnerable members.

It was noted by the Community Alert Development Officers the lack of availability of information with regard to payments and services available to Older People who often reside in isolated areas within their communities.

Application was made to Comhairle for funding under its Information Grants Scheme 2005 to address the information needs for older people. It was felt that the Muintir na Tíre Community Alert programme with its network of 1250 groups around the country was ideally placed with its network of volunteers to address the information needs of older people directly in the communities.

Statistics indicate that 55% of older people access information through informal social networks, hence the development of the Information Pack for Older People for use by volunteers. It is the tireless efforts of the Community Alert volunteers that have led to this event, highlighting once again the Muintir ethos of neighbourliness.

Copies of the Pack are available from your Community Alert Development Officers.



---

## **8. Community Councils Activities**

The following are some of the activities and work carried out by two of Muintir na Tíre Community Councils.

### **Moore Community Council**

This past year has been one of great accomplishment for the people of Moore and Clonfad who have surpassed themselves with their efforts and work.

The big event of the year has to be the Thousandaire event, which was a huge success with a total of €35,000 to the Oncology Unit of Portiuncula Hospital and the remainder equally divided between the communities of Moore and Drum.

The council applied for and received a wonderful and welcome grant from Pobal for the refurbishment of Moore Hall. This included about 100 new chairs, large event tables for catering nights, computers and desks and even floor covering. The grant with 10% of their own funds even stretched to a new plumbed in water heater and a couple of room heaters. Next on the agenda is updating the facilities.

In the summer of last year, an event was organised for Sister Bridie Grenham, home from Peru on leave to visit her family in Moore. Sister Bridie is a living example of the good that can be done with a large amount of dedication and very little resources. The people of Moore decided to improve the resources part of the equation and had a night for her in Millers, which surpassed all expectations. The amount was €12,500 and rising when she returned to Peru, and when changed into local money is about three times that amount.

Congratulations to Council member May Greene, who has received the Community Person of the Year for her dedication and hard work for both her community and her country.

[extract from Lee. P. Blake, Secretary's Report Moore Community Council]

### **Ballynoe Community Council**

2006 was a very successful year for Ballynoe Community Council. Following the elections and AGM in February 2006, a number of new members joined the Community Council and looked forward to working with the more long-standing members.

The hall continues to be used by a large number of groups in the community. The hall was



used for many events e.g. parties such as the very successful Halloween party in October organised by the parent's association and the Annual Christmas Party organised by the Community Council, refreshments following the First Communion in May, the Healing Mass and other events held in the Church, sporting events such as post match celebrations and the annual road race and the Ogham Player's production of the '*The Cripple of Inishmaan*' in November. Financial contributions mainly from the last of these have enabled the purchase of new ware, which was bought in time for the 2006 Christmas party. Broadband has come to Ballynoe this past winter with support of the Community Council.

Throughout the year a number of social events were organised by the Community Council to cater for all members of the community such events included a sports day for the children of the parish in June, Annual Barbeque was held in the grounds of McAuliffe's, with food and music entertaining a large crowd.

Fundraising events such as Ballynoe Point to Point and Annual raffle were a tremendous success.

As in the past, the Community Council has taken the opportunity to monitor proposed new developments in the village, particularly to ensure they are in line with the Community Councils submission to the Local Area Plan for Fermoy approved in 2005.

Ballynoe look forward to another active year in 2007.

[extract from Nuala O'Connell, Secretary's Report Ballynoe Community Council]

Well done to the Community Councils of Moore and Ballynoe and all other Community Councils nationwide for their magnificent and vigorous work, which is an invaluable resource and of immense benefit to the people of their respective communities. Keep up the hard work.



---

## **9. Resolutions**

1. That the government trust and support the efforts of volunteers engaged in planning and delivering community development projects.
2. That the government acknowledge the involvement of volunteers in their efforts to improve the quality of life and eliminate poverty and isolation within their communities.
3. That citizens aged 80 years and over who paid PRSI and are not in receipt of any state pension – receive such a pension.
4. That a grant be made available to Community Groups, for the purchase of Automated External Defibrillators.
5. That a Good Samaritan Bill be reintroduced to Dáil Éireann, to enhance volunteer's protection.



---

## **10. Board Members**

<b>Margaret O’Doherty</b>	National President, Mitchelstown, Co Cork
<b>Dermot O’Donnell</b>	National Secretary, Celbridge, Co Kildare
<b>Patrick McCabe</b>	National Treasurer, Carnalynch, Bailieborough, Co Cavan
<b>Brid Coakley</b>	Munster Vice-President, Doneraile, Co Cork
<b>Tom Connolly</b>	Connacht Vice-President, Clifden, Connemara, Co Galway
<b>Valerie Henderson</b>	Leinster Vice-President, Donabate, Co Dublin
<b>Jerry Bracken</b>	Board Member, Clonaslee, Co Laois
<b>Seán Hegarty</b>	Board Member, Kilworth, Co Cork
<b>Kilian Kenny</b>	Board Member, Kinvara, Co Galway
<b>Mattie McGrath</b>	Board Member, Newcastle, Co Tipperary
<b>Martin Quinn</b>	Board Member, Tipperary Town, Co Tipperary
<b>Michael Quirke</b>	Board Member, Clane, Co Kildare
<b>John Roche</b>	Board Member, Ballinasloe, Co Roscommon



---

## Notes

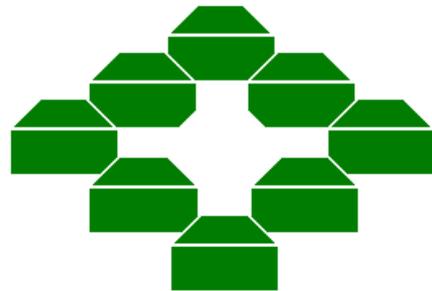


---

## Notes

## **muintir na tíre**

Head Office  
Canon Hayes House  
Tipperary Town



**T:** 062 – 51163

**W:** [www.muintir.ie](http://www.muintir.ie)

**F:** 062 51163

**E:** [headoffice@muintir.ie](mailto:headoffice@muintir.ie)