Ba mhaith liom fáilte a fearadh romhaibh go dtí ár gCruinniú Cinn Bhliana. Go raibh maith agaibh as bhur ndíogras i leith An Díseart a choimeád oscailte mar ionad lárnach sa phobal d'fhorbairt imeachtaí spioradálta, ealaíona agus cultúrtha, agus ó thaobh leanúint ar aghaidh lená dtaighde ar Spioradáltacht agus Diagacht na hÉireann.

Ba mhaith liom, ar dtús, buíochas a gabháíl le gach duine agaibh as bhur gcabhair agus tacaíocht ó thosnaíos-sa amach mar Chathaoirleach Gníomhach i Mí Márta. Ba mhaith liom buíochas a ghabháil leis an Athair Jim Sheehy as an obair mhór leanúnach a chuir sé isteach mar Chathaoirleach ó 2016 go tús 2020. Mairfidh an méid a chuir sé i gcrích. Ba mhaith liom trácht ar leith a dhéanamh ar an obair agus na hacmhainní a chuir sé ar fáil ar mhaithe athchóiriú úrláir an fhoirgnimh agus na fallaí cloiche sna gairdíní, chomh maith le deontas a leabhair agus tógáil na leabharlainne, le cúnamh ó bhaill Seid na bhFear atá ina bhfoinse tacaíochta daingean againn.

Ní mór buíochas a rá le Pádraig Feirtéar, John Sheehy agus Padraig Ó Foghlú as iad a bheith ar fáil agus as a gcuid comhairle, anuas ar an méid atá déanta acu ag deighleáil le miontuairiscí, cuntaisí agus cúrsaí dlí.

Buíochas, leis, le Tadhg Ó Dúshláine as an obair a dhein sé ag forbairt an naisc idir An Díseart agus SHU timpeall ar an taighde leanúnach ar Spioradáltacht agus Diagacht na hÉireann, chomh maith leis an bplean a déanadh chun leabharlann ar fhoinsí na Spioradáltachta Éireannaí a fhorbairt i bpairtnéireacht le SHU. Bhí obair Isabel Bennett fíorthábhachtach maidir leis an leabharlann seo chomh maith.

Bhí an tacaíocht leanúnach ó Siúracha na Toirbhirte agus a ionadaithe ar an mbord, Sr. Marie Wall agus Sr. Dorothy, lárnach agus sinn ag iarraidh forbairt An Dísirt a chur chun cinn, agus táimid fíorbhuíoch do Bhríd Ní Mhóráin as a cuid oibre aistriúcháin.

Tá obair Cairde an Dísirt ina nasc bunúsach idir An Díseart agus an pobal áitiúil, agus gabhaimid buíochas le gach ball de na Cairde a thug a gcuid ama chun an obair a chur chun cinn, go háirithe le Marian Uí Chofaigh as ionadaíocht a dhéanamh thar cheann na Cairde ag cruinnithe boird, agus le Mháire Uí Shíthigh agus an tAthair Jim Sheehy as a ról mar oifigigh idirchaidrimh.

'Sí foireann ó na scéimeanna SST agus Solas a dhéanann an obair riachtanach laethúil a choimeádann an eagras carthanachta ag oibriú, agus tá aitheantas nach beag tuilte ag Theresa, Elaine, Tom, Páidí, Breda agus Robert, go bhfuil díograis mór léirithe acu ó fhilleadar ar an obair, agus ag a maoir Séamus Ó Luing agus Joe Brick. Tá iarracht eisceachtúil curtha isteach ag foireann an ghairdín, agus iad ag obair faoi chúinsí deacra, chun leagan amach an ghárdín a thabhairt chun críche. Beidh Tom Healy ag dul ar scor ag deireadh Mhéan Fómhair agus braithfimid uainn a chabhair. Níl forbairt an ghairdín ach ag céim luath, ach fós tá a thionchar soiléir cheana féin, lenár gcomharsana béal dorais i nGairdín Mhuire, agus daoine eile nach iad, ag cur a lúcháir faoin gclaochló ar an áit in iúl dúinn. Buíochas le Gary Delaney agus Pat O'Leary as a dtacaíocht leanúnach.

Don gcéad uair, agus é mar chuid den mheabhrán tuisceana atá a fhorbairt idir Ollscoil an Chroí Rónaofa agus An Díseart, chuireamar cúrsa ionduchtaithe ar fáil do mhic léinn. B'iad Isabel Bennett, an tAthair Jim Sheehy agus Joan Maguire a thug an cúrsa seo.

Tar éis tús gnóthach, le lántí de mhic léinn agus imeachtaí pobail, tháinig cor gan choinne sa bhliain. Bhí 191 mac léinn ag SHU ag freastal ar chúrsaí gearra go luath i mbliana. Bhí 63 mic léinn téarma agus iad trí sheachtain isteach ina gcúrsa trí mhí nuair a tháinig an glaoch go raibh orthu filleadh abhaile go Meirice. Bhain gach mac léinn an baile amach gan dochair agus chuireadar ar fad a dtréimhse coicíse coraintín isteach gan tuairisc ar aon bhreoiteacht.

Anuas ar na himeachtaí bainteach le mic léinn SHU, i measc na n-imeachtaí a chuireadh ar siúl sa Díseart ó thús na bliana bhí Aifreann ar maidneacha Luain, ranganna Ióga Aeir, ranganna Tai Chi, ranganna Gaeilge agus ciorcal comhrá, is bhí Cór agus Ceolfhoireann Nua Chorca Dhuibhne agus

an Cór Soiscéil ag cleachtadh is ag déanamh staidéar teorice ceoil. D'eagraigh Pat de Brún oíche seachtainiúil d'amhráin Ghaeilge. Bhí cruinnithe ag an nGrúpa tacaíochta do dhaoine ar chailleadh daoine muinteartha leo, agus tionóladh cúrsa spioradálta an pharóiste sa Díseart i Mí Mhárta. Do bhuail an grúpa cniotála gach seachtain, agus an grúpa ealaíne gach Aoine. D'eagraigh Grúpa Meabharshláinte Chorca Dhuibhne ranganna oscailte ealaíne, sheol Transition Chorca Dhuibhne a thionscadal coille phobail, agus d'eagraigh Máire Uí Shíthigh léacht ó Anastasia Crickley a d'ardaigh ceisteanna suimiúla faoin gcuimsiú pobail.

Tá Domhnal Ó Bric ceapaithe ina ealaíontóir cónaitheach ag An Díseart. Tá sé i gceist go raghaidh sé ag obair ar a leagan ealaíonta féin a dhéanamh de na comharthaí timpeall an fhoirgnimh, is go gcuirfidh sé a chuid saothair ar thaispeáint ann, chomh maith le caint a thbhairt ar a chleachtas ealaíne féin. Ba mhaith liom a mholadh go ngairmfí Cónaitheacht Ealaíne Harry Clarke ar an tréimhse cónaitheach seo.

Déanadh tuilleadh oibre ar an gcríonlobhadh adhmaid san fhoirgneamh agus tugadh faoi athmhaisiú. Spreagadh an córas aláram dóiteáin cúpla uaire, ach ní raibh tine i gceist in aon cheann acu sin. Cuireadh ráiteas sábháltachta An Dísirt in airde agus déanadh uasdátú air chun cuimsiú a dhéanamh ar cheisteanna a mbaineann le COVID-19. Cuireadh polasaí COVID-19 i bhfeidhm le tacaíocht ó Theresa agus Clíodhna Ní Bheaglaíoch. Cuireadh stop iomlán le gach imeacht san fhoirgneamh ar 12ú Márta de bharr teacht an COVID-19 agus an dianghlasáil a lean sin, cé gur leanadh leis an obair sa ghairdín ar feadh tamaill ina dhiaidh sin. D'fhill cuid den fhoireann ar an obair sa ghairdín ag deireadh Mheithimh, ach tá an foirgneamh féin dúnta don bpobal fós de bharr baol an víris. Bhí an fhoireann ar fad thar n-ais faoi lár Iúil. Le athoscailt an ghairdín ag tús Lúnasa d'fhill fadhb an iompair mhíshóisialta i ngairdín na gcrann teaghlaigh, rud ar chuireadh an bord ar an eolas faoi trí litir ghearáin ó áitreabhaigh Bharr an tSeanbhaile. Tá claí tógálaí in áit anseo ó shin, rud a choscann formhór na faidhbe seo. Tá sé i gceist geataí a chur san fhalla agus ceamaraí slándála a chur in airde.

Ag féachaint chun cinn, tá tréimhse neamhchinnteachta romhainn agus tá freagracht orainn na hoibrithe scéime, na mic léinn agus baill an phobail a choimeád slán sábháilte sa Díseart le linn na paindéime reatha. Tá feidhm bainte as an tréimhse dúnta seo chun an foirgneamh a ullmhú, le péinteáil, glanadh amach agus atheagrú seilfeanna agus cófraí nár bhain éinne leo le blianta. Tá an-aitheantas ag dul go Theresa as a cuid oibre timpeall ar seo. Tá an foirgneamh á tiargáil d'athosnú ranganna i rith an gheimhridh. Coimeádfaidh siad seo ár misean ag feidhmiú sa phobal ag am go bhfuil gá ag daoine lena leithéid. Beidh gá le pleanáil sonrach agus comhoibriú ó gach éinne a bhaineann úsáid as an Díseart, chomh maith le glantachán bhreise, chun go mbeimid in ann na riachtanaisí sábháltachta atá i réim le linn na paindéime a shásamh. Tá SHU ag féachaint an mbeidh siad in ann mic léinn a thabhairt thar n-ais i gcomhair téarma ag tosnú go luath i 2021.

Is féidir linn a bheith cinnte go ndearcann an pobal agus coistí na bhféilte áitiúla ar ghairdíní agus foirgintí An Dísirt mar acmhainn tábhachtach. Ciallaíonn nádúr An Dísirt – áit chiúin shíochánta suite i gcroílár tranglam an bhaile – gur áit ar leith í a chloíonn lena h-ainm agus leis an bhfeidhm a leagadh amach di.

Mar charthanacht chláraithe, cloíonn An Díseart le prionsabail an dea-rialachais mar atá leagtha amach ag an Rialtóir Carthanachtaí. Is í 2020 an chéad bhliain gur ghá dúinn cloí leis na rialacháin seo. Leagann seo breis freagrachta ar an mbord stiúrtha. Ach ag an am céanna, soláthraíonn sé struchtúr a chinnteoidh bainistiú agus riaradh sábhálta na carthanachta agus cosaint do na stiúrthóirí, ach cloí leis an struchtúr sin.

Beidh orainn athbhreithniú ar an gcinneadh faoi riarthóir a fhostú de bharr an laghdú ar teacht isteach a eascraíonn as an easpa cuairteoirí i rith an tsamhraidh. Is gnáthach do charthanachtaí

'iomlán-deonach', ar nós an Dísirt (carthanachtaí gan aon fhoireann fhostaithe) go mbíonn na hiontaobhaithe gníomhach i rialú agus bainistíocht laethúil na carthanachta araon.

Ach ní cheart dúinn ligint do seo easpa misnigh a chur orainn, mar le tuilleadh díograise is féidir linn An Díseart a stiúradh ar aghaidh. Is féidir linn bheith ag súil le hoibriú as lámha a chéile sna blianta amach romhainn chun cuspóirí carthannachta An Dísirt a chur chun cinn. Tá scileann againn ar fad i réimsí na hacadúlachta, na oidhreachta, an chultúir, na scríbhneoireachta, na healaíne agus na spioradáltachta. Bainfear feidhm as na scileanna seo ar fad. I láthair na huaire, níl ball ar an mbord againn a dhéanann ionadaíocht ar son an ghairdín. Ba mhaith liomsa moladh go n-ainmneofar Breda Enright chun an t-ionad seo a líonadh.

Tá géarghá go leanfaidh baill an bhoird lena dtacaíocht tré bheith gníomhach agus glacadh le rólanna is freagrachtaí sonracha i rialú agus baintistiú an eagrais. Anuas ar cheisteanna riachtanacha oibriúcháin, ba ghá dúinn plean a dhéanamh don mbliain chun go mbeimid in ann dul ar aghaidh ag forbairt ról An Dísirt sa phobal áitiúil, an dream is mó go bhfuil obair na carthanachta seo dírithe orthu.

An rud is gá ná go nglacfaidh baill an bhoird le freagracht do réimsí ar leith. Molann ár gcomhairleoirí go n-oibreodh baill an bhoird i bhfoirne beirte, le duine amháin ag glacadh ceannaireachta as réimse ar leith, agus go dtiocfaidis suas le plean maidir leis an tslí is fearr chun an réimse sin a fhorbairt. Ansin féadfar an plean sin a chur i bhfeidhm le cúnamh ó bhaill Chairde an Dísirt.

Má éiríonn linn sa mhéid seo beimid ábalta a chinntiú go leanann An Díseart ag gníomhú i gcroílár phobail bhríomhair, ag cur Cultúr agus Spioradátacht Cheilteach chun cinn mar chuid d'ár n-oidhreacht áitiúil. Le bhur dtacaíocht agus dúthracht leanúnach leanfaidh aisling An Dísirt ag fás is á nochtadh féin amach anseo. Go raibh maith agaibh.

I would like to welcome you all here to our Annual General Meeting. Thank you for your commitment to continuing An Díseart as a place in the centre of the community for the development of spiritual, artistic and cultural activities and to continuing the research into Irish Spirituality and Theology.

Firstly, I would like to thank every single one of you for your help and support since I assumed the role of Acting Chairperson in March. I would also like to thank Fr. Jim Sheehy for the work tireless work he undertook as Chairperson from 2016 to early 2020. His contribution is lasting. I would like to mention in particular the work and the resources he provided for the restoration of the floors in the building and the stone walls in the garden also the donation of his books and construction of the library, with the help of the men's shed whose contribution who have been powerful and contuing in their support.

Many thanks goes to Pádraig Feirtéar, John Sheehy, Padraig Ó Foghlú, for their advice as well as their individual contrbutions in minute taking, accounts and legal matters.

Thanks also to Tadhg Ó Dúshlaine for his work in developing An Díseart's co-operation with SHU on the ongoing research into Irish Theology and Spirituality, and the planned co-development of a library on the sources of Irish Spirituality, Isabel Bennett's input to this library is also extremely valuable.

The continued support of the Presentation Sisters and their representatives on the board, Sr. Marie Wall and Sr. Dorothy has been key in progressing developments at An Diseart and many thanks to Bríd Ní Mhorain for her work on translation.

The work of Cairde an Dísirt is central to the success of An Díseart and many thanks to all of the cairde who have given of their time to contribute to the work, and to Marian Uí Chofaigh for ably representing Cairde at board meetings and Maire Uí Shíthigh and Fr. Jim Sheehy for their role in liaising.

The essential work done on a daily basis to keep the charity operational, is provided by team from the SST and Solas schemes, great dcredit is due to Theresa, Elaine, Tom, Joe, Páidí, Breda and Robert, who have shown great dedication since returning to work, and to their supervisors Séamus Ó Lúing and Joe Brick. The team in the garden have put in exceptional effort, in difficult circumstances, to bring the design of the garden to fruition. Tom Healy is retiring from before the end of the September. The garden is in the early stages of its development but its effect is already apparent, with our neighbours in Gairdín Mhuire expressing their delight at the developments.

For the first time, and as part of the developing memorandum of understanding between Ollscoil Chroí Ró Naofa and An Díseart, students were given an induction course by An Diseart. This was delivered by Isabel Bennett, Fr. Jim Sheehy and Joan Maguire.

The year took an unexpected turn after a busy start with a house full of visiting students and community activities. SHU had 191 students attending short courses early in the year. 63 semester students were a few weeks into their three month course when the call came to return to the USA. All students returned safely and completed their 14 day quarantine without any illness reported.

Apart from SHU students activities taking place included, Mass on Monday morning, Aerial Yoga, and Tai Chi classes, Irish classes and ciorcal Comhrá, The Dingle New Music Choir and Orchestra and the Gospel choir were practising and studying music theory and Pat de Brún organized a once weekly evening of songs as Gaeilge. The Bereavement group held meetings and the parish retreat

was held in An Díseart in March. The knitting group met weekly and the Art group met every Friday. Open art classes were organised by West Kerry Mental health group, Transition Chorca Dhuibhne launched their community forest project, and Maire Uí Shíthigh organized a lecture with Anastasia Crickley, which raised interesting questions about inclusion in community.

Domhnal Ó Bric has been appointed artist in-residence at An Diseart, it is planned that he will work on bringing his interpretations to the signage within the building and will exhibit his work as well as deliver a talk on his art practice. He is the first artist to be given an artists residency at An Diseart, and I would like to suggest that this is named the Harry Clarke, artists residence.

The work on the dry rot to the east of the front door was completed, as was the fire alarm system and essential work carried out on the electrical system. thanks to Gary Delaney and to Pat O Leary for their continued support. The Diseart safety statement was put in place and the statement was updated to include COVID-19 issues, also with the support of Theresa and Clíodhna Ní Bheagaíoch a COVID-19 policy is in place. The arrival of COVID-19 virus in Ireland and the ensuing lockdown brought all activities in the building to a sudden halt on March 12th, with work continuing in the garden for a longer period. Part of the team returned to work at the end of June with the work recommencing on the garden, but the building has remained closed to the public, due to safety concerns surrounding the virus. From mid- July everyone had returned to work. The opening of the garden created concern of a return of anti-social behaviour in the Famuily tree garden, which the board were made aware of by a letter of complaint from the residents of of Barr an Sean Bhaile. The builders fencing has remained in place which has reduced this problem. It is planned to contruct gates in the wall and to install cameras.

Going forward, we are facing a period of uncertainty and we have a responsibility to keep the scheme workers, students and the community safe in An Diseart during the present pandemic. This is not a time to pull back but a time to work in preparing the building for classes in the winter that will keep our mission active within the community, at a time when it is people need it. The safety requirements of operating in a pandemic will require detailed planning and co-operation from all who use the Diseart and an added cleaning schedule. SHU are examining the feasability of bringing students for a semester starting in early 2021.

We can be confident that An Diseart gardens and building are viewed within the community and by the local festival committees as an important resource. The location of the Díseart in the centre of the town makes a visit here , a short step away from the hustle and bustle, a place apart, in keeping with its name and purpose.

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As a registered charity, An Diseart, is regulated by the principles of good governance as laid out by the Charities Regulator and 2020 is the first year that we must comply with these regulations. This places added responsibilities on the board of directors However, it also provides a structure that, if adhered to will ensure the safe running of the charity and the protection of the directors.

Our hope of employing an administrator will have to be reviewed, with the reduced income caused by the lack of visitors over the summer months. For volunteer-only charities, such as An Díseart (charities with no staff) the trustees are normally actively involved in both the governance and in the day-to-day management of the charity.

But we should not be deterred by this, because with continued commitment we can steer An Diseart forward. We can look forward in the coming year to working together to further the charitable aims of An Diseart. We each individually have skills in the areas, of academics, heritage, culture, writing, art and spirituality, and these will be called into use. At present we do not have a board member that can represent the garden, I would like to suggest that Breda Enright be nominated to this position.

The need for board members to continue their commitment by becoming active and taking up specific roles and responsibilities within governance and operational activity is pressing. Essential operational issues aside, we have to draw up a plan for the year that will continue and to develop the reach of An Díseart in the community, the main beneficiaries of the work of this charity.

What is required is for board members to take responsibility for areas, the best advice from John Sheehy is that the board works in teams of two with one person taking the lead in an area, and they will come up with a plan of how to develop that area, which can then be implemented with the help of members of Cairde.

If we succeed in this we can ensure that An Díseart continues to acts as the centre for a lively community giving expression to and promoting Celtic Culture and Spirituality as an integral part of our local heritage. Thank you, with your continued commitment An Díseart will continue to grow.