

Cathaoirleach Address Cruinniú Cinn Bhliain 2021 ar 8ú Meán Fómhair 2022

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Ba mhaith liom fáilte a fearadh romhaibh go dtí ár gCruinniú Cinn Bhliana. Go raibh maith agaibh as bhur ndíogras i leith An Dísirt a choimeád oscailte mar ionad lárnach sa phobal d'fhorbairt imeachtaí spioradálta, ealaíona agus cultúrtha, agus ó thaobh obair ar na cúntaisí, na miontuarascáí, an ghairdín, an chéad file cónaithe a bheith anseo, imeachtaí a chur siúl agus an obair a bhaineann le seo, ag cur isteach ar deontaisí agus an comh-oibriú le SHU ar an Deep Mapping Project.

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.

Ba mhaith liom, ar dtús, buíochas a gabháil le gach duine agaibh as bhur gcabhair agus tacaíocht i rith na bliana. Ba mhaith liom buíochas a gabháil leis an leas chathaoirleach Máire Uí Shíthigh as an ucht obair ata déanta aici. Leann sí ar aghaidh leis an obair agus mar thoradh ar sin, tá sraith de ceolchoirmeacha gnothú thar na bearta tosaithe aici, tá brí agus fuinneamh nua in sna héalaíona Ghaeilge sa Dísirt. Ba mhaith liom trácht ar leith a dhéanamh ar an obair agus na hacmhainní a chuir sí ar fáil ar mhaithe an Dísirt leis an chéad scéim cónaithe chun filíocht béil sa Dísirt, ní féidir gan a rá mar gheall ar an obair iontach ar thaobh cursaí ealaíne de a dhein Marina Ní Dhúbháin, ach beidh a thuilleadh le rá ar sin ag an chéad cruinniú bliaintiúil eile.

Ba mhaith liom buíochas a gabháil leis Breda Ní Eanrach as an ucht obair atá déanta aici agus ag an foireann sa ghairdín, an áit in a raibh na himeachtaí ar súil, Tá an gairdín fós lárnach de bharr an tóir atá ar an Dísirt do mhuintir Chorca Dhuibhne, agus é sin a mhéadú ó bhliain go bliain. Is áit ar leith é in a bhfuil daoine in ann teacht le chéile sa amuigh faoin spéir, bailíonn daoine do gach aois ann. Tá breis geataí ann anois a cabhraíonn go mór chun cuairteoirí na hoíche a choimead amach as an gcúilín seabhrach, agus cuireann se sinn leis an fáilte ata ann do chuariteoirí i rith an lae. Fós t.á an foireann ag teacht isteach ar maidin agus san oíche chun na geataí a oscailt agus a dhúnadh, chun an áit a choimead slán.

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.

Bhí obair Isabel Bennett fíor thábhachtach maidir leis na sonraisc a phroiseáil, chomh maith le sin tá láithreachtaí láidir sna meáin shóisialta ag an Dísirt agus ní bheadh a leithéid ann ach í, chomh maith lena cuid comhairle agus obair ar chursaí oidhreachta agus go háirithe an plean straitéiseach agus na polasaithe agus an obair ar an tógra Deep Mapping le SHU, Baill ó Dhia ort, Isabel.

Bhí an tacaíocht leanúnach ó Siúracha na Toirbhirte, agus deis a thabhairt don Dísirt, usáid a bhaint as Árasán an tSúir de Sales. D'fhan an Filíocht cónaithe sa Dísirt ann agus bhí obair déanta chun seomra ranga nua a bhunú ansan. Taobh le sin bhí cúrsaí ealaíne le fail i rith an tsamhraidh le Anne Lundon agus Dingle Art School. Gabhaim buíochas leis a ionadaithe ar an mbord, an tSúir Eileen Clear, an tSúir Marie Wall atá tagtha ar ais chugainn., agus sinn ag iarraidh forbairt An Dísirt a chur chun cinn.

Gabhaim buíochas leis an cuigear de baill nua ar Bhoird an Dísirt, Marina Ní Dhúbháin an obair ar son ealaíon agus an obair ag chur isteach ar an deontas don Scéim Bainisteoir Turasóireachta, Mícheál Ó Conchúir agus an obair a dhein se leis an tolláin agus Cairde an Dísirt, Helena Curran as obair ar na doirse agus ar áiritheoir agus tacaíocht a thabhairt d'imeachtaí, Edel Ní Loibhéid, ní raibh deis ag Edel freastal ar aon cheann dos na cruinnithe agus Cáit Uí Bheaglaíoch agus an ollmhór abair atá déanta aici leis an leabharlann, agus tá fáilte is fiche rompu agus iad ag glacadh leis na rólanna agus na freagrachtaí atá acu agus ag cur leis An Dísirt.

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Gabhaim buíochas go speisialta le Gary Delaney, fear a bhfuil an suim aige san fhoirgneamh agus an obair déanta aige, ag tabhairt cabhair leis an gairdín, an coras slándála, an rampa rochtain agus an córas séarachas, san áireamh go léir ar mhaitheas an Díseart.

Tá Cairde an Dísirt ina nasc bunúsach idir An Díseart agus an pobal áitiúil, os rud é nach rabh ar ár gcumas an nasc sin a fhorbairt le linn na paindéime, táimid arís ag braith ar Chairde an Dísirt agus gabhaimid buíochas le gach ball a thug cabhair agus tacaíocht chun an fáiltiú a oimed ar oscailt den bpobal. Ba bhreá liom buíochas a ghabháil le Theresa Rafter Moriarty a éirigh as a cúram le linn 2021 ach a tháinig thar n-ais chun bheith in a hoifigeach Covid agus a bhfuil fós ag freastal ar obair riaracháin san oifig gach Céadaoin, baill ó Dhia ar a obair. Os rud é go raibh pá ar fáil di den cúram oifigeach Covid, dhein sí an obair go léir saor in aisce.

'Sí foireann ó na scéimeanna SST agus Solas a dhéanann an obair riachtanach laethúil a choimeádann an eagrais carthanachta ag oibriú, agus tá aitheantas nach beag tuilte ag Elaine, a thóg an ualach obair uirthi fhein nuair a thainig deireadh le obair Theresa, ní bheidh an oifig ag obair nó na bookings I gceart gan í, agus chomh maith le sin choimeádann sí na cúntais ó lá go lá, cursaí bainc agus na cuntais a ullmhú don cuntasóir, táim thar a bheith bhuíoch di.

Breda, Joe agus Kevin go bhfuil díograis mór léirithe acu, go háirithe Breda. Tá iarracht eisceachtúil curtha isteach ag foireann an ghairdín faoin a stiúr, agus a thuilleadh le rá aici ar an abhar seo.

Joe Ó Gairbhí a dheineann obair sa tigh, siúnéireacht, péintéaracht, más gá agus nuair a bhfuil deis aige. Caithfidh mé buíochas a ghabháil ag a maor Séamus Ó Luing, atá tar eis éirí as a churam agus Joe Ó Beaglaíoch a ionadaí, agus do Joe Brick. Ag deireadh 2021 bhí duine amháin ag obair sa Disart faoin Scéim Sóisialta Tuaithe agus ceathrar ann tríd an scéim Solas faoi bhainistiú, Joe Brick.

Cuireadh stop iomlán den tarna babhta le gach imeacht san fhoirgneamh ag tús 2021 de bharr an COVID-19 agus an dianghlasáil a lean sin, cé gur leanadh leis an obair sa ghairdín. D'fhill an fhoireann sa tigh ar an obair i mí Bealtaine 2021. Níl a leithéid de táille I gceist chun teacht ag féachaint ar na fuinneoga Harry Clarke ach sintús in ionad táille. Toisc go rabiabh an tír fós faoi greim an pandeim ní raibh an meid céanna do chuartheoirí timpeall is a bhí i 2019.

Le linn na bliana ghlanfar amach an arasán den tSúir de Sales agus tá an-aitheantas ag dul go Theresa as a cuid oibre timpeall ar seo.

De bharr Covid-19 ní raibh duine ag SHU ag freastal ar chúrsaí i 2021 ach bhí an foireann istigh san oifig go leathúil ag déanamh cursaí ar Zoom agus ag ullmhú do dhaltaí a raibh le teacht ag deireadh na bliana agus i dtús Mí Eanáir.

Thóg Tuismitheoirí na Gaeltachta oifig Mons. Padraig Ó Fiannachta ar feadh bliain ag tosnú i Mí Meán Fómhair. Táid ag iarradh an oifig a thógaint arís i 2022.

Toisc cúiseanna pearsanta, ní raibh Dómhnal Ó Bric sa fhoirgneamh seachas anois is arís le linn na bliana. Tá an grúpa fós ag obair ar na comharthaí timpeall an foirgneamh agus taobh amuigh den fiorgneamh.

Bronnadh Sparántacht an Dísirt ar Cholm Mac Gearailt ó Chathair Scoilbín chun tréimhse cónaitheach mar Fhile Béil. Bhí Colm lonnaithe sa Díseart ó thús Mheán Fómhair 2021 – go Deireadh Feabhra 2022 agus baint aige le grúpaí sa Phobalscoil agus le grúpaí eile sa phobal. Dhein sé comhoibriú le hOidhreacht Chorca Dhuibhne, An Fhéile Bheag Filíochta, le Tobar Dhuibhne, agus Other Voices, agus Scoil Cheoil an Earraigh ag tús bliain 2022.

Ag féachaint chun cinn, tá an Díseart faoi bhláth agus an obair ag leanúint ar aghaidh chun an áit a coimead oscailt den bpobal, agus iad a spreagadh le ceol, léachtaí, paidreacha, áileacht an ghairdín, oidhreacht, oideachas agus a leithéid.

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Sa bhliain 2022 beidh an Díseart ag tógaint céim sa bhreis le duine a fhostú chun chur leis an obair agus chun cursaí túrasóireachta chultúrtha a fhorbairt san áit le béim ar oideachas, spioradáltacht, agus cultúr Chorca Dhuibhne, le cabhair ó Údarás na Gaeltachta, is é sin tacaíocht a bhí á lorg ag an Díseart le blianta anuas, buíochas le Dia agus sár obair baill den bhoird agus le tá sé ann. Tá súil agam go chuireann an Oifigeach/Bainisteoir Tuarasóireachta nua go mór le obair an áit agus go mbeidh cabhair i gceist chun an méid obair atá le dhéanamh a chur i gcríoch.

Beidh An Díseart ag athrú ó chatharnach 'iomlán-deonach', go carthanacht ina bhfuil duine fostaithe, agus beidh railacháin, cursaí dlí fostaíochta agus dualgas ar an mbord chun glacadh leo.

Mar charthanacht chláraithe, cloíonn An Díseart le prionsabail an dea-rialachais mar atá leagtha amach ag an Rialtóir Carthanachtaí. Leagann seo breis freagrachta ar an mbord stiúrtha ach tatraenáil ar fail tríd an ballraíocht ata again leis 'An Wheel' agus na sonraí seolta agam chughaibh. Molaim dea-rialachas, soláthraíonn sé struchtúr a chinnteoidh bainistiú agus riaradh sábhálta na carthanachta agus cosaint do na stiúrthóirí, ach cloí leis an struchtúr sin, ach tá a lán obair i gceist chun coimead suas leis.

Atr thaobh an foirgneamh de, tá na ceamra slándála curtha in airde, tá obair breis le dhéanamh ar an úrlár sa séipéal, agus An Díseart a chur ar stádas inbhuanaithe leis na costasaí breise a mbeidh ann i mbliana, athríomar chuid do na soilse sa POF agus sa seomra Fhreascó go LEDs agus ag súil go mbeidh an obair chéanna déanta ar na seomraí eile sar i bhfad. Beidh dúshláin again ag dealáil leis na himplechtaí ó ardú costais de breosla agus aibhléis.

Má éiríonn linn sa mhéid seo beimid ábalta a chinntiú go leanann An Díseart ag gníomhú i gcroílár phobail bhríomhair, ag cur Cultúr agus Spioradáltacht 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.

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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 contributions 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 Disearth and many thanks to Bríd Ní Mhorain for her work on translation.

The work of Cairde an Díseart 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 Disearth. 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

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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 Díseart, 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 Díseart, 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 Díseart 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 Family 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 construct 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 Díseart 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 Díseart and an added cleaning schedule. SHU are examining the feasibility of bringing students for a semester starting in early 2021.

We can be confident that An Díseart 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.

As a registered charity, An Díseart, 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.

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But we should not be deterred by this, because with continued commitment we can steer An Díseart forward. We can look forward in the coming year to working together to further the charitable aims of An Díseart.

If we succeed in this we can ensure that An Díseart continues to act 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.