

## **Irish Community Archive Network Meeting**

04.12.2019

### **Claregalway Castle, Co. Galway**

**Attendees:** Liam Doherty (Notetaker); Lorna Elms, Mary O'Malley, Hazel Morrison, Catherine Fyfe, Maura Horan, Ann Reid, Averil Staunton, Marian Hardiman, Gerry Costello, Eileen O'Connor, Caroline Hannon, Martina Creavan, Marie Mannion, Brendan Noonan, Pat Coen, Seamus O'Connell, John Joe Connell, Clare Lowry, Christy Cunniffe, Alfred Seale, Robert Brown, Donal Burke, Mary Lyons, Pauline Connolly, Bernie Doherty, Olive Carey, Antoinette Lydon, John O'Brien, Clare Doyle, Pat Slattery, Sara Slattery, Breege Needham, Angela Magennis, Helen Fox, Eric Shaw, Catherine O'Connor, Christy Leyden, Susan Miller, Simon Scriver, Frances Holohan, Eileen Keane (42)

**Apologies:** Rita McCarthy, John Williams, John Holohan, Grainne Smyth, Congella McGuire

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#### **1. Welcome and introductions**

- LE opened meeting, welcoming everyone to Claregalway Castle and gave an outline of the meeting and talks to follow. Also noted thanks to Marie Mannion for making all the arrangements around today's meeting in Claregalway.

#### **2. Network updates**

- Growth and expansion of iCAN in 2019
  - LE gave a brief outline of recent developments with the project. Creative Ireland funding has enabled the project to continue and develop. Recruitment of a Project Development Officer and provision of a Network Administrator to provide I.T. support, along with funding to facilitate travel and training has broadened the geographical spread of the project. Investment and support of local partners has seen development of two new portals for eleven new community groups.
    - Partnership with Clare County Council has allowed development of forthcoming Clare County portal – [clareheritage.org](http://clareheritage.org). Limerick & Clare Education and Training Board are partnering up with the Clare portal and in turn this may result in additional communities from County Clare participating in iCAN.
    - The new portal site for County Wicklow, [wicklowheritage.org](http://wicklowheritage.org), will go live in early March.
- New Galway Groups and Training Cluster
  - LE noted that partnership with Galway County Council was key to sustaining the project since this partnership was established in 2013. It is the template for the development of iCAN. There is interest from new groups for 2020. It was proposed to set up a new training cluster for Galway. This was necessitated by new groups coming on board and changes in personnel in some of the established groups.
  - In December it is hoped to 'buddy-up' new groups in Clare with established groups from Galway for peer support.

- EC Global Platform on *Heritage & Social Innovation*
  - Brief note from LE re: EU global platform for digitisation of cultural heritage and mention of [Europeana](#) project. LE noted that the iCAN is seen as a possible model for similar projects in other European countries.
- iCAN in 2020
  - **Funding**
    - Noted by LE that whilst this is time-consuming and onerous that funding for 2020 has been secured, but there will be a shortfall compared to 2019. Efforts are underway to make up this gap. For 2020, work on the project will be consolidating the developments made during 2019.
    - Note of thanks to NMI head of Education Lorraine Comer, who is a strong advocate for the project and to Marie, Mary, Hazel and the other members of the iCAN Steering Group.
    - If new county groups are to come into the project next year, it will be towards the latter half of 2020.
    - A separate funding application has been made towards raising the national profile of the project.
    - LE asked if project members could continue to act as advocates for iCAN.
    - Noted that interest in iCAN expressed from individual communities in Limerick, Dublin, Cork, Kerry and Donegal. A strategic decision has been made though to go with the local partnership model rather than directly with individual communities.
    - Strategic priorities for 2020 will be to focus on supporting local communities and on making heritage accessible through digitisation.
  - **Network Projects**
    - *Our Irish Women*  
Application for funding has been made to enable this exhibition travel to the U.K.
    - *Our Hidden Heritage*  
Discussed but did not get off the ground in 2019. Still might be possible in 2020 if there is interest in this?
    - *Commemoration*  
LE put forward the question whether there was any interest or ideas in pursuing a project for the commemoration period 2020-2023.
    - *Network-wide project*  
LE advocated for a network-wide project, similar to *Our Irish Women*, as groups coming together for a larger project lessens the workload on individual communities.
- **Training**
  - Noted that there was a desire for training but this will be dependent on the level of funding received. Recommended that groups research what locally available training exists. LE asked if there was specific training needs that she be contacted as she will be looking into this up till the end of January.
- **Steering Group**
  - Noted by HM that either Mary O'Malley or she are contactable if groups had any questions to be brought to the next Steering Group meeting. This meeting is scheduled for 23<sup>rd</sup> January.

- **Community Updates**

- Noted by MM that work of groups was to be complemented. It is important that the heritage of local communities is documented and gave examples of how it is being used by the Heritage in Schools scheme, G.M.I.T. and a myriad of other, sometime unknown groups and individuals, both at home and abroad. MM also noted that for Galway groups, Community Support funding applications will be open in January and similar funding may be available in other counties. LE noted MM's comments on how the iCAN groups' work is being used, citing examples such as the television series, *Who Do You Think You Are?*, a new forthcoming Coastal Atlas being published by Cork University Press and as a tool to teach English to Japanese students.
- **Abbey**  
Frances mentioned contact with a member of the diaspora undertaking research on cures, and a generous donation arising from developing a relationship with a family in the UK/US via the website.
- **Moycullen**  
Hazel noted publication of 'True to Ireland' which tells the story of Irish emigrants to New Zealand who refused to serve in the armed forces during World War I. Launch of book in Moycullen had helped to re-establish a connection with the New Zealand diaspora.
- **Milltown**  
Pauline noted the launch of the Day Care Centre by the Irish Ambassador to Romania. Ambassador is son of the late Dr. Nora McGarry, who is featured in the *Our Irish Women* exhibition.
- **Skehana**  
Gerry noted that material featured in their article on Travelling Roadshows was to be used in a forthcoming exhibition in Cork.
- **Hidden Heartlands**  
John Joe Conlan noted the government initiative to promote midlands tourism through [Ireland's Hidden Heartlands](#). Noted also the University of Limerick's [Certificate in Local History](#) being run on an outreach basis through Portumna Workhouse.
- **Dunmore**  
Clare noted the importance of local heritage in establishing a sense of local connection with non-national children.
- **Creative Schools/Creative Youth**  
LE noted possible funding stream under Creative Ireland and asked if anyone was interested to contact her.

- **iCAN Filmmaking project**

- Briefing by Susan Miller from Ocean Media and showing of three films. Funding for this element has been provided in agreement with Creative Ireland to highlight the work of individual communities. Susan Miller emphasised the benefits to websites of including video content, especially on home

pages. Feedback from groups involved to date was that this was a very worthwhile exercise.

**3. Guest Speaker: Simon Sriver**

- Slides of presentation to follow.

**4. Networking Lunch**

**5. Tour of Castle**