



Cuimhneamh
an Chláir
CLARE MEMORIES



STRATEGIC PLAN
2022~2025









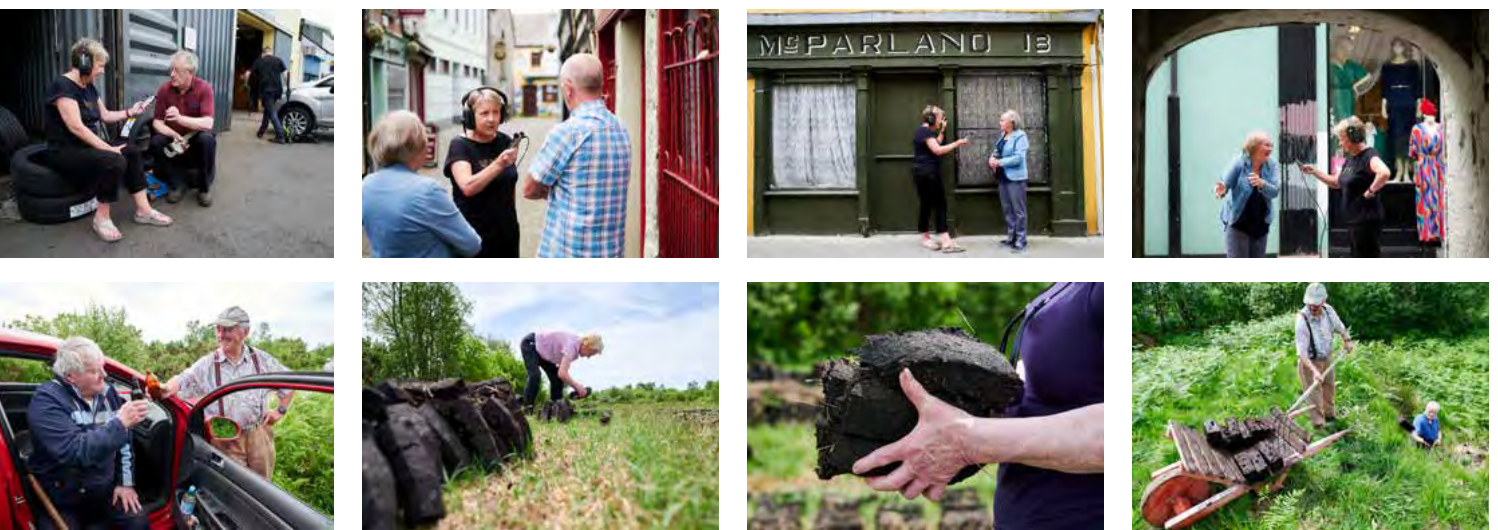
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Cuimhneamh an Chláir: Our Story

Cuimhneamh an Chláir / Clare Memories is an independent, voluntary charity, which digitally records, archives and shares the oral heritage of Co. Clare, through interviews with the county's older citizens in its diverse communities. To do this we train and mobilise volunteers known as 'Cuairteoirí', who visit people in their own communities to record their stories. This is in homage to the old tradition of 'going on cuaird'; a practice which centres on respectful listening to and conversation with the elders of a community.



Cuimhneamh an Chláir was founded in 2009 and is unique in being the only structured, collective, county-wide, community-based oral history gathering initiative in Ireland. In 13 years we have amassed an archive of thousands of hours of Clare oral history. We are leaders among community-owned oral history projects, having a strong focus on sharing the collected material with the communities who bequeathed it. This is done through community events and digitally via podcast and social media.

Our main working and funding partnership is with Clare County Council, with whom we currently have a Memorandum Of Understanding for the delivery of Folklore & Oral History Assistance to the Cultural Services division of Clare County Council. Our work and the importance of Co. Clare's oral cultural heritage is recognised in the Clare County Development Plan 2023 – 2029 (CDP16.18), and we are proud to be named in this document as partner in Clare County Council's expressed objective of preserving and promoting County Clare's oral heritage.

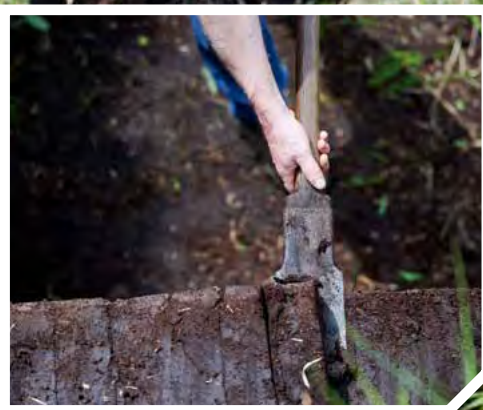


We have been nominated for numerous national and international awards for the unique nature of our work. We have co-founded the Oral History Network of Ireland. We have been approached to partner on Third Level research projects. We have successfully leveraged funding from Rethink Ireland, The Heritage Council and LEADER for projects to support our work.

As we emerge from the Covid pandemic in 2022 we look forward to the next 3 years of renewed connection and sharing with the elders of our diverse County Clare communities.

VISION

Connecting communities and nurturing creativity through Clare's shared oral heritage.





MISSION

Cuimhneamh an Chláir curates the story of Co. Clare by collecting, safeguarding and showcasing our shared oral heritage through collaboration, partnership and innovation.

VALUES

Storytelling

We value the art of conversation, of person-to-person, gently-paced communication and connection.

Community

We value a community and voluntary approach to the work, which puts people first.

Place-making

We value the individual and community wisdom held in local stories, and connected to place.

Cooperation

We seek to find common ground and to work with like-minded organisations to deepen our impact.

Excellence

We strive for excellence as custodians of oral heritage.

Governance

As a charitable organisation we commit to the highest standards of accountability and transparency.



STRATEGIC GOALS

For each of our strategic goals, we have a set of objectives, which will help us make that goal a reality and which will be further detailed in our annual implementation plans.

Safeguarding and Showcasing

Ensure the passing on to future generations of the knowledge and wisdom contained in Clare's oral heritage.

Innovation and Development

Develop new projects and work with more diverse groups, emphasizing intergenerational, intercultural and interdisciplinary work.

Partnership and Collaboration

Collaborate with other heritage, community and cultural organisations to increase impact for both partners.

Sustainability

Maintain financial and structural security of Cuimhneamh an Chláir in order to achieve our vision and mission.

Training and Capacity building

Build capacity and skillset of our cuairteoirí (collectors) and our Board, through excellence in training and continuous professional development.



OBJECTIVES

SHOWCASING AND SAFEGUARDING

- Share archive material through curating community events, hosting live interviews, organising expert talks.

- Maintain and increase the pace and diversity of oral history collection in the postpandemic period.

- Build a strong public presence in Clare cultural life.



OBJECTIVES

- Continue online events and a strong digital presence via social media, podcast and website to reach international audiences.

- Curate intergenerational projects to connect old and young.

- Secure a physical space for Cuimhneamh an Chláir to enable stronger connection with the public.

- Collaborate with an umbrella organisation to ensure secure housing and increased accessibility of the archive.

OBJECTIVES

INNOVATION AND DEVELOPMENT

- Increase diversity of individuals and communities recorded – in terms of age, ethnicity, cultural and economic background.

- Develop new projects to record experiences of non-geographical communities.

- Develop innovative ways of facilitating public engagement with the archive.

- Support production of innovative publications based on the Cuimhneamh an Chláir archive.



OBJECTIVES

PARTNERSHIP AND COLLABORATION

- Continue to collaborate with providers of elderly healthcare to deliver meaningful mutually beneficial activities for older citizens.

- Collaborate with the Arts community to deliver commissioned artworks and events, based on the Cuimhneamh an Chláir archive.

- Collaborate with the Education sector to deliver education projects based on oral heritage.

- Share knowledge with other heritage organisations who wish to have an oral history dimension to their work.

OBJECTIVES

SUSTAINABILITY

- Maintain financial security for Cuimhneamh an Chláir through local and national funding streams.
- Seek one-off funding for projects that contribute to the goals of Cuimhneamh an Chláir.
- Seek funding to retain a project coordinator to deliver goals and objectives of strategic plan.
- Seek continuous training, development and support in governance matters.

OBJECTIVES

TRAINING AND CAPACITY-BUILDING

- Continue developing as an organisation of excellence, staying abreast of current best practice in collecting and sharing community-owned heritage.

- Maintain and increase the number of cuairteoirí in the post-pandemic period.

- Deliver technical, professional and ethical training to continue our high quality of work.





Cuimhneamh
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Cuimhneamh an Chláir is a registered charity

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