Cuimhní Cinn an Choiste

Cúig Bliana 's Fiche den tSean Bheairic
1997 - 2022

An tSean Bheairic

Ba é an Sáirsint Bracken an sáirsint deireanach a chónaigh sa Bheairic, bhí sé lonnaithe ann ó 1977 go dtí 1984. Faoin am sin bhí an foirgneamh ag dul in olcas. Cáineadh é agus measadh nach raibh sé fóirsteanach chun cónaí ann.

I 1994 socraíodh go ndéanfaí áitreabh an Gharda Síochána béal dorais a oiriúnú mar stáisiún nua Gardaí. D'fhág na Gardaí an tsean bheairic agus ar feadh roinnt blianta, níor úsáideadh an bheairic.

Sergeant Bracken was the last sergeant to reside in the Barracks, he was stationed there from 1977 until 1984. By then the building was running into deterioration. It was condemned and deemed unsuitable for living in.
In 1994 it was decided that the neighbouring Garda house premises be adapted as a new Garda station. The Gardaí left the former R.I.C. barracks and for a number of years, the barracks lay unused.

I 1998 rinne na Comhairleoirí Condae áitiúla, Pádraig Ó Ceallaigh agus Maureen Ní Dhubhchóin iarratas ar an Scéim Athnuachana Bailte agus Sráidbhaile don Fhál Carrach. Rinne an clár seo machnamh ar thodhchaí na beairice. Mar thoradh air sin, bhunaigh Cumann Turasóireachta & Trádálaithe an Fhál Carraigh fochoiste. Shocraigh siad an foirgneamh a cheannach agus é a athchóiriú chun ionad cultúrtha agus oidhreachta a chruthú. Ceannaíodh é ó Oifig na nOibreacha Poiblí ar £22,500.

Pádraig Ó Ceallaigh

In 1998 local councillors Paddy Kelly and Maureen Doohan secured the Village Renewal Scheme for Falcarragh. This programme gave consideration to the future of the barracks. As a result, the Tourist & Traders Association of Falcarragh formed a sub-committee. They decided to buy the building and refurbish it to create a cultural and heritage centre. It was purchased from the Office of Public Works for the sum of £22,500.

Maureen Ní Dhubhchóin

Bunaíodh Coiste An tSean Bheairic Teo. le freagracht a ghlacadh as an tionscadal athchóirithe. Fuair an comhlacht tacaíocht airgid ón gCiste Idirnáisiúnta d'Éirinn, ó Údarás na Gaeltachta, ón Roinn Ealaíon, Oidhreachta, Gaeltachta & Oileán, agus ó Chomhairle Contae Dhún na nGall.

Coiste An tSean Bheairic Teo. was formed with direct responsibility for the restoration project. The company received financial support from the International Fund for Ireland, Údarás na Gaeltachta, An Roinn Ealaíon, Oidhreachta, Gaeltachta & Oileán, and the Donegal County Council.

I Meán Fómhair 2000, cuireadh tús le hobair athchóirithe ar an bheairic. Caomhnaíodh go leor den bunfhoirgnimh agus athchóiríodh é go cúramach. Sa lá atá inniu ann léiríonn sé stair dhraíochtúil, agus scrúdaítear stair Ghaeltacht Dhún na nGall.

San Ionad tá Áis Eolais faoin gceantar, Siopa Ceardaíochta, Spás Taispeántais d'ealaíontóirí agus tionscadail áitiúla, spásanna oibre do cheardaithe áitiúla agus halla éisteachta fá choinne damhsa, dráma agus léirithe ceoil. Tá Caifé ann freisin.

In September 2000, restoration work began on the barracks. Much of the original building fabric was preserved and its unique glory was carefully restored. Today it showcases an enchanting history and explores the history of the Donegal Gaeltacht. The Centre consists of an Information Facility about the area, a Craft Shop, and an exhibition space for local arts and projects. It includes workspaces for local craft workers and an auditorium for dance, theatre, and musical performances. It also houses a coffee shop.

Séamus Mac Aoidh

Seosamh Ó Dubchóin

Máire Nic Fhionnghaile

Seán Seosamh Mac Aoidh

Bríd Ní Ghríofa

Pádraig Ó Ceallaigh

Carmel Nic Suibhne

Seán Seosamh Mac Pháidín

Aidain Mac Uaid

Is le sásamh agus le bród a fhéachaim siar ar an gcúig bliana is fiche den tSean Bheairic, ag fás ó na smaointe a bhí againn ag cruinnithe Cumann Turasóirí agus Trádálaí, go dtí an ionad chultúrtha, ealaíona agus pobail atá ann inniu.

Seosamh Ó Dubhchóin, Cathaoirleach na Sean Bheairice

Ba mhaith liom bhuíochas ó chroí a ghabháil le Cumann Turasóirí agus Trádálaí an Fháil Charraigh a d'fhéach le ionad don phobal a chruthú mar thionscadal mílaoise, ag baint úsáid as an Bheairic Péas a bhí le díol ag an am.

Ní bhainfí amach sprioc sin achab é an obair chrua, fadbhreathnaitheacht, dúthracht agus comhoibriú bhunaitheoirí na Sean Bheairice.

Is cuimhin liom go háirithe ceathrar ball coiste agus oibrithe deonacha a bhí ríthábhachtach, dícheallach agus luachmhar; Joe McFadden, Paddy Kelly, Mary McGinley agus Carmel Sweeney.

Suaimhneas síoraí dóibh.

Focal ón Chaitheoirleach

le Seosamh Ó Dubhchóin

It is with a sense of satisfaction and pride that I look back at the past twenty five years of An tSean Bheairic, seeing it grow from the ideas that we came up with at the Tourists and Traders Committee meetings for five years, into the busy cultural, arts and community centre that it is today.

I wish to acknowledge my sincere gratitude to the Tourists and Traders committee that envisioned the millennium project back in 1996 whereby the old barracks, which was for sale at the time, would be transformed into a centre for the community. The height of success that An tSean Bheairic has seen from that time onward would never have been achieved if it was not for the hard work, foresight, dedication and cooperation of the founding committee members of An tSean Bheairic. I remember especially four vital, hardworking and valuable committee members and volunteers since then; Joe McFadden, Paddy Kelly, Mary McGinley and Carmel Sweeney.

May they rest in peace.

Focal ón Chaitheoirleach
le Seosamh Ó Dubhchóin

An tSean Bheairic received vital support from the beginning and it is true to say that the vision would never have gotten off the ground if it wasn't for the support of the International Fund for Ireland, Údarás na Gaeltachta and all the people from the community who supported our fundraising draws. It was one thing to get it off the ground, but it has been another thing to keep it going and for that, I would like to acknowledge and thank our generous funder Pobal and all the employees whose hard work, skills and dedication have contributed to making an t-Sean Bheairic go from strength to strength.

In these challenging times, An tSean Bheairic sits at the heart of the community playing an essential role in community-based education programmes, cultural programmes, especially with young people, festivals of traditional arts and culture, as well as being the focus of community activity and a place where local people and visitors to the area can drop in and meet up.

We currently have five new committee members, Gerard, Séamus, Simon, Méabh, and Fank, and I am confident that we have the stewardship and innovation required to continue to operate to the highest standards possible and I look forward to seeing An tSean Bheairic continue to grow, develop and blossom for years to come.

Seosamh Ó Dubhchóin
Cathaoirleach na Sean Bheairice

Buíochas le Coiste na Sean Bheairice:
Seosamh Ó Dubhchóin, Séamus Mac Aoidh, Méabh Nic Aoidh,
Gearóid Mac Fhionnghaile, Séamus Ó Dubhchóin,
Simon Mac Fhionnghaile, Proinsias Mac Suibhne.

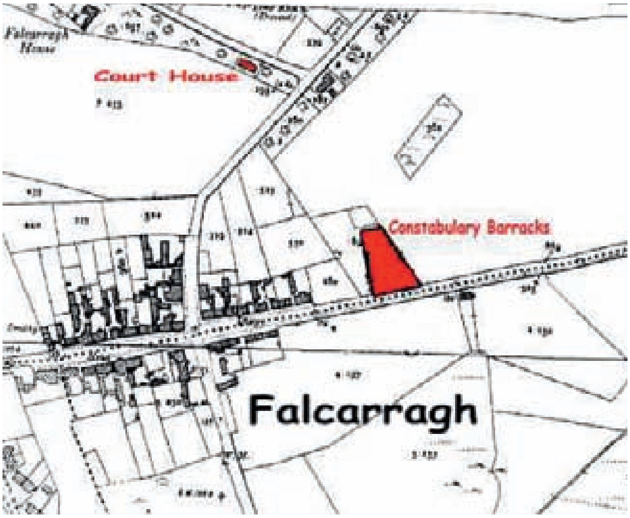
The Land War, in the 1880's and early 1890's had necessitated an increase in the police personnel throughout the Cloughaneely district. As a result a temporary station and police huts were located at Ballyconnell house and elsewhere throughout the area. The main barracks on the Ballyconnell road, a rented premise, was now no longer sufficiently large to accommodate the increased number of officers and their extra policing duties. One can only assume, that R.I.C. authorities considered it necessary to find a new location for a police barracks and that they approached Wybrants Olphert, whom they had served well during the evictions.

In the Registry of Deeds, we find that by 1891, Sir Andrew Reed of Dublin Castle, the Receiver General for the R.I.C. Constabulary Force in Ireland had been granted a new site on the Dunfanaghy road, by Wybrants Olphert;

'For the purposes of the constabulary Force, for the term of ninety years, from the first day of January, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-one, at the yearly rent of eight pounds, subject to the several conditions covenants and agreements….'

In Griffith's Valuation of 1857, we find both a Revenue Police barracks and an R.I.C. barracks at Crossroads, the latter being located in a building that once stood alongside Danny Collins' Paint shop, on the Station Rd. At a later date the barracks was relocated in what is the Betting Shop, formerly Mc Carthy's. This barracks was surrendered in 1893.

It is of interest to note that during the Land War, on the19th December 1887, Wybrants Olphert wrote to Balfour, Chief Secretary, explaining his position. In this letter he also makes reference to Mr. Reed. 'No one has better knowledge of this country and on my relations with my tenantry than Mr. Reed, Inspector General of Constabulary, and I trust you will refer to him for further particulars or for verification of my statement.' Therefore, it seems that the granting of land to build an new R.I.C. Barracks in 1891 was a token of appreciation shown to Mr. Reed and the Constabulary for their support throughout the Plan of Campaign. In a letter to the Ramelton Masonic Lodge dated the 30th of July 1864 we find reference to a 'Br. Reed' who wrote a Certificate for Sir John Olphert's entry into the Freemasons. Is this the same Mr. Reed? We also find a note of appreciation given to the same Sir Andrew Reed and the R.I.C. for their cooperation in the horse breeding project of the Congested District Board for Ireland- See Fifth Report, 1896 p. 27. This project set out to improve the breed of horses through the C.D.B.'s district. In 1897, for example the Falcarragh R.I.C. station kept a Welsh Cob. called 'Express IV', during the service season. Premiums were offered by the C.D.B. to locals if their mares foaled by using their stallion. See Sixth Report of Congested District Board p.42.



The Registry of Deeds, Ireland. Reg. 29th Oct., 1891, No. 42, Olphert to Constabulary Force Ireland. (Receiver).

**The Transfer Deed of Wybrants Olphert to the R.I.C.
No. 42. Olphert to the Constabulary Force Ireland. (Receiver)
Reg. 29th October, 1891, 50 minutes after 2 o clock.**

To the Register of Deeds Ireland.
A memorial of an indenture made 18th day of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and ninety one, between Wybrants Olphert of Ballyconnell House in the County of Donegal, Esquire D.L. therein after called the said Lessor which expression was to include the persons or person for the time entitled to the reversing of the hereditaments thereby demised expectant on the term thereby granted where the context so admitted of the one part and Sir Andrew Reed of Dublin Castle the Receiver for the constabulary Force of Ireland appointed under the provisions of an Act made and passed in a session of Parliament held in the sixth year of the reign of his late majesty King William the fourth, Cap. 13. Entitled 'An Act to consolidated the laws relating to the Constabulary Force in Ireland, 'therein after called the said Lessee of the other part.'
Whereby it was witnessed that the said Lessor in exercise of the power for the purpose vested in him under and by virtue of the statue 14, and 15, vic. Chapter 85, and of all other powers if any, there unto enabling for and in consideration of the yearly rent covenants and agreements therein after mentioned Receivers for the Constabulary Force and his and their assigns intrust for her Majesty and her Successors all that and those that plot of ground part of the lands of Ballyconnell containing and not exceeding one acre statue measure situate in the Barony of Kilmacrennan and County Donegal as the same were particularly described on the map coloured red.

To Hold with the appurtenances unto the said Lease as such Receiver as aforesaid and to his successors and his and their assigns in the trust for Her Majesty and her successors for the purpose of the same being occupied for the purposes of the Constabulary Force for the term ninety years from the first day of January one thousand eight hundred and ninety one at the yearly rent of eight pound and subject to the several conditions, covenants and agreements therein contained which said indenture as to the execution thereof and his memorial as to the signing and sealing thereof by said Wybrants Olphert are respectively witnessed by Robert H. Beresford, Resident Magistrate, Rathmullen, Co. Donegal, and John Wilkinson, Petty Sessions clerk Falcarragh and which said indenture as to the execution thereof by the said Sir Andrew Reed is witnessed by William Campbell Irish Constabulary office Dublin Castle. Wybrants Olphert sealed, signed by said Wybrants Olphert in the presence of Robert H.Beresford, Resident Magistrate, Rathmullen, Co. Donegal, and John Wilkinson, clerk of the Petty Sessions at Falcarragh. John Wilkson maketh oath and saith that he saw the indenture of which the written writing is a memorial duly executed and the said memorial duly signed and sealed by the name Wybrants Olphert party there to and that the name John Wilkinson subscribed to said indenture and this memorial respectively is his,this deponent proper name and handwriting John Wilkinson sworn at Dunfanaghy in the County of Donegal, 25th day of September, 1891, before me and I know deponent, Chas. A. Ramsay, J.P. for the county of Donegal.

Carmel Sweeney and the t-Sean Bheairic
le Annette Sweeney

In our house in the late 60s and early 70's – 'The Barracks' was the dominant 'big' building across the road from where we lived, with its rampart high walls that clearly communicated a place of authority and defence while also captivating our curiosity as children. Years later we were pleased that the historical significance of this building was going to be preserved as a heritage site in the parish and for community-based activities which would promote the area, its language and rich traditions. Mam was delighted to serve as one of the co-founding directors in guiding and maintaining this development.

Carmel Sweeney

In the early days, my memory is of her attending many many meetings, with decisions after decisions needing to be made, some of which seemingly were not without 'heated debate' on various strategies! She enjoyed working with her fellow directors and was proud of their collective achievement and dedication in bringing the project alive.

Twenty years later, it's a credit to all the directors and management, the focal role that an t-Sean Bheairic performs in Falcarragh and personally it is an honour that mam was part of the team that made this happen. The high walls of the early days are no more, it is no longer a place of authority and defence but a place of open hospitality, local welcome and engaged learning- an important 'home' for us all as a community.

Annette Sweeney
Annette Nic Suibhne

Joe "Joe the Rake" McFadden 1945 - 2003

It's a pity that one of the main drivers behind this project passed away before the opening. Joe was a great fund raiser for the community, always selling raffle tickets for some organization. He was great at getting things done, when the committee went to Dublin to negotiate the purchase of the building they left with a message from Joe, "Don't come home till you've bought it!". Joe was instrumental in developing the new car park, just off the Main Street in Falcarragh.

Joe "Joe the Rake" McFadden

In February 2003, there was a committee meeting in An tSean Bheairic, after the meeting Joe washed the cups and dishes and left to go home. The committee received news within the hour that he had passed away.

Joe "Joe the Rake" McFadden 1945 - 2003

Seosamh Ó Dubhchóin agus Sadie McFadden

le Séamus Mac Aoidh

Seamus Mac Aoidh

Ag amharc ar ais ar na 25 bliain deireanacha, ón am ar thosaigh muid a chaint ar thionscnamh na Sean Bheairice don chéad uair, tá mé an-bhródúil a bheith páirteach i mbunú agus i stiúradh na Sean Bheairce atá suite i bhfoirgneamh stairiúil bheairic na bpéas ar na Croisbhealaí.

Mar chuid de phlean athnuachana an bhaile de chuid Choiste na dTurasóirí agus na dTrádálaithe, ina raibh forbairt á déanamh ar infreastruchtúr an bhaile, socraíodh go gcuirfí ar bun coiste ar leith le hionad úr a fhorbairt do chuairteoirí agus don phobal áitiúil araon. Ón chéad lá ariamh bhí coiste maith láidir againn leis an tsaothar mhór seo a thiomáint chun tosaigh gur cheannaigh muid an foirgneamh ón OPW agus go ndearnadh an t-athchóiriú agus an t-atógáil agus gur leagadh amach plean maith gnó a bhfuil forbairt ar dóigh déanta ó shin air.

Willie McArthur agus Séamus Mac Aoidh

Caithfear a rá go dtug Angela Butler as Baile Átha Cliath cuidiú mór dúinn sna céad laetha sin nuair a rinne sí staidéar ar na féidearthachtaí a bhain le hionad úr ar na Croisbhealaí. Leag sí amach riachtanais an cheantair agus cuireadh le chéile plean don ionad úr bunaithe ar an staidéar seo. Measadh gur cheart

go mbeadh point ar leith ar bhaile le fáilte a chur roimh thurasóirí agus le seirbhísí áirithe a chur ar fáil don phobal. Is é an Fál Carrach an chéad bhaile Gaeltachta a dtig cuairteoirí isteach ann ar a mbealach siar agus ba mhaith linn go mbeadh lárionad ar an bhaile leis an chuid is fearr d'ár gceantar a chur i lár an aonaigh.

Cuireadh ionad ar bun ina mbeadh seomraí ranga, halla imeachtaí, spás cruthaitheach d'ealaíontóirí, caifé agus tuilleadh lena chois sin. Bheadh gné ghnó ag baint leis an ionad fosta, rud a chinnteodh go mbeadh teacht isteach agus sruth airgid ann leis an áit a choinneáil ag gabháil. Cuireadh ar bun siopa ceardaíochta sa tSean Bheairic sa dóigh go dtiocfadh ceardaithe an cheantair agus a gcuid déantús a chur chun tosaigh.

Féadaim a rá gur bhain muid amach ár gcuid cuspóirí go sásúil agus go bhfuil rath agus bláth ar an tSean Bheairic ó shin agus tá súil agam go mbeidh ar feadh i bhfad eile amach anseo.

Seamus MacAoidh agus Éamonn Ó Cúiv

Focal ón Rúnaí
le Séamus Mac Aoidh

Looking back on the last 25 years, from the time we first started talking about the Sean Bheairic initiative, I am very proud to be involved in the founding and running of the Sean Bheairic housed in the historic barracks building. in Falcarragh.

As part of the Tourist and Traders Committee's town renewal plan, which was developing the town's infrastructure, it was decided to set up a separate committee to develop a new center for both visitors and the local community. From day one we have had a very strong committee to drive forward this project. We bought the building from the OPW and carried out the refurbishment and reconstruction and set out a good business plan that has been developed upon over the years.

It has to be said that Angela Butler from Dublin was a great help to us in those early days when she studied the possibilities of a new centre for Falcarragh. She set out the needs of the area and a plan for the new centre was drawn up based on this study. It was felt that a town should have a special point in welcoming tourists and providing certain services to the public. Falcarragh is the gateway town for visitors to the Gaeltacht.

A venue has been set up with classrooms, an events hall, a creative space for artists, a café, and more. The centre would also have a business element, ensuring revenue and cash flow to keep the venue running. A craft shop was set up in the Old Barracks to promote local artists.

I can say that we have achieved our objectives satisfactorily and that the Sean Bheairic has flourished in the years since and I hope that it will continue for some time to come.

Séamus Mac Aoidh,

Rúnaí Choiste na Sean Bheairice

Born Magheroarty 1935, one of 7 children. After leaving school at 14 she started working in Falcarragh, in Charlie Greene's Grocery & Hardware, cycling to work. She later went to Glasgow, working in a hotel in Ardrossan.

She returned after 2 years back to Greene's again, spent 50 years there, bought the premises, and rebuilt a new store. She bought old Matthew's Hotel, knocked it down, and built a new pub, The Gweedore Bar.

Mary was involved with the Falcarragh Tourist & Traders association and was one of the founding members of An tSean Bheairc, along with her friend Bríd Griffin. Married Hugh Friel, of Radharc an Earagail, Gweedore.

Died in 2015 and was buried with her husband in Magheragallon.

Duine ag Coimhéad - Chomh maith le beirt ag obair

le Cathal Mac Suibhne

Cathal MacSuibhne

Ar an chéad lá de Mhárta agus mé ag siúl thíos cois na trá le blas an tsalainn i mo bhéal agus mé ag smaoineamh ar an alt a bhí le scríobh agam faoin tSean Bheairic, a bhí le bheith fiche bliain ar an fhód, tháinig scéal m'athair mór isteach i mo chloigeann.

Is minic a chuala mé é (Hughie), a rá (fear na gcnoc as Cúl a' Chnoic, Proclas a bhog cois farraige/íochtar tíre go Droim na Tine in 1919 chuig a ghabháltas talún nuacheannaithe lena bean chéile Kate Gallagher as Mín Doire) agus muid amuigh 'sna cuibhrinn gurbh é port a mháistir ar an Lagan na blianta ó shin ná go raibh "duine ag coimhéad chomh maith le beirt ag obair"

Thiocfaí an Laganach críonna cromtha a shamhailt ag siúl le bata agus píopa ina bhéal ag barr a' pháirc ag glacadh isteach achan rud ina thimpeall agus na céimeanna oibre uilig pleanáilte amach aige do na seachtainí agus míonna amach roimhe.

Chuir an scéal agus an pictiúr sin ag smaoineamh mé ar mo chuimhní féin agus mo dhearcadh faoin choiste a thoisigh amach le seilbh a fháil ar Shean Bheairic na bpéas ar na Croisbhealaigh agus fís forbartha acu don fhoirgneamh. Bhí fealsúnacht agus tréithe fear a' Lagain go láidir iontu:

- Meascán maith láidir de bhaill coiste
- Lucht cruthaithe gnó an bhaile mhóir
- Dúshlán acu ina gnóithe féin thar na mblianta
- Gan eagla na hoibre orthu
- Taithí forbartha pobail acu tré scéimeanna eile pobail roimhe seo
- Fís agus fealsúnacht ghnó
- Taithí an tsaoil acu
- Coimeádaithe agus oibrithe den scoth

Ba é an chéad teagmháil a bhí agam le baill den coiste ná cuairt oíche ó Josie agus Séamus Danny leis an sprioc a bhí acu do Bheairic na bPéas a bhí á dhíol ag Bord na nOibreacha Poiblí (OPW) a mhíniú agus cén cuidiú a dtiocfadh le hÚdarás na Gaeltachta a chur ar fáil dá bhfís forbartha. Is cuimhneach liom roinnt cruinnithe eile ina dhiaidh sin i dTeach Tábhairne an Ráca le baill eile an choiste agus Joe é féin (úinéir a' tí) i mbarr a shláinte. Ba léir go raibh tionscnamh tábhachtach, fiúntach acu.

Deirtear sa saol seo go bhfuil an t-am thar a bheith tráthúil agus fíor thábhachtach agus duine ag toiseacht amach le tabhairt faoi thionscnamh – thig leat a bheith ró- luath don dúshlán nó ró-mhall agus an seans imithe ach i gcás na Sean Bheairice thit sé isteach in am trátha a bhí fabhrach.

Bhí straitéis comhthuisceana aontaithe idir an tÚdarás agus an IFI (International Fund for Ireland) le cuidiú le tograí pobalbhunaithe a spreagadh agus comhaoiniú a chur ar fáil le hiad a fhorbairt. Faoin am a thoisigh plé faoin tSean Bheairic bhí roinnt tograí eile ceadaithe ag an Údarás/IFI mar a bhí i gcás:

- An tSean Cheardscoil i Srath na Corcra tré Forbairt Gaoth Dobhair
- Sean Teach Pobail An Clocháin Léith tré Forbairt na Rosann
- Cuid de shean mhonarchan teicstíle Bhaile an Droichid tré Áislann Chill Chartha

Mar sin de i ndiaidh don choiste an Sean Bheairice a cheannacht (lena samhlaíocht, a dtaithí agus méid áirithe béal bocht) tháinig an tÚdarás agus an IFI ar bord lena dtacaíocht agus bunaíodh an tSean Bheairic Teo. lena bpleananna a chur i gcrích. Caithfear a rá (diomaite de chúpla babhta sciolladóireachta anois agus arís) go raibh sé éasca agus

pléisiúrtha dom féin agus mo chomhghleacaithe Siubhán Nic Grianna déileáil leis an choiste agus an cás do dheontas a ullmhú do Bhord an Údaráis.

Ba mhaith liom aitheantas agus buíochas a thabhairt do Paddy Harte, Comhairleoir Gnó an IFI sa chontae seo le linn na mblianta bheith ag comhoibriú linn san Údarás agus leis na pobail éagsúla fud fad na Gaeltachta nó sna blianta sin gan Paddy agus tacaíocht thábhachtach an IFI ní bheadh mórán den dosaen ionad pobail forbartha nó curtha i gcrích i gceantar Gaeltachta Dhún na Gall.

Mary Coughlan, AnneMarie Ní Churráin, Mícheál Ó hÉanaigh, Máire NicFhionnghaile, Séamus MacAoidh, Seosamh Ó Dubhchóin

Má tá an fás (20bl.) déanta ag an tSean Bheairic Teo. agus iad anois ag bogadh ar aghaidh go dtí a dtréimhse faoi bhláth, an amhlaidh a bheas? Cosúil le ghnó ar bith caithfear a bheith de shíor   meabhrach, ag athrú, ag athnuachan agus ag aimsiú spriocanna úra. Caithfidh an coimhéad a bheith ann.

Cead bliain ón am seo in 1921 le linn Cogadh na Saoirse rinneadh

ionsaí ar an tSean Bheairic – Beairic na bPéas mar a bhí ag an am ó Chnoc an Fháil Charraigh– caidé a bheas le rá ag ár shliocht i gceann céad bliain eile faoi bhliain seo an Covid agus imeachtaí eile na linne seo?

Anois agus mise ag amharc isteach ón taobh amuigh measaim gur chruthaigh stiúrthóirí an ghnó pobail seo iad féin go maith leis an fhís agus an plean a pléadh agus a aontaíodh leo a iompar ar aghaidh thar blianta fáis An tSean Bheairic Teo.

- Imshaoil maith cultúrtha cothaithe
- Tuiscint faoin Ghaeilge agus ár stádas Gaeltachta
- Bród pobail
- Ionad seirbhíse fiúntach
- Áis turasóireachta agus buail isteach
- Gníomhaíocht pobail – mar modh oibre

Bhí dearcadh folláin forbartha ag stiúrthóirí An tSean Bheairic Teo. faoi ról na Gaeilge a bheith lárnach agus feiceálach ina n-imeachtaí agus i riaradh agus i mbainistiú an ghnó. Is é m'achainí go leanfaidh stiúrthóirí an chomhlachta (cibé iad féin) sna 20 bliain amach romhainn leis na bunphrionsabail céanna seo, an tuiscint céanna, an ceannródaíocht céanna i leith lárnacht na Gaeilge, an chultúir agus na hoidhreachta i saol na Sean Bheairice agus iad ag freastal ar phobal leitheadach Chloich Cheann Fhaola agus na cuairteoirí a thig chugainn.

Ar an droch uair tá mórán de na baill/stiúrthóirí ar An tSean Bheairic Teo. a bhí lárnach i mbunú an togra imithe uainn anois agus ar Shlí na Fírinne. Ar dheis Dé go raibh siad.

Joe Ferrys voyage from America to Falcarragh 2006

Joseph P Ferry's father left Falcarragh in Co Donegal for Philadelphia in 1929 and on July 17th, 2006, 77 years on, that journey was reversed when Joseph, now a grandfather sailed his boat, The Falcarragh into Ballyness Bay after 41 days at sea, where a crowd of local people gathered on the pier to meet the son of the town who had completed the epic journey. It was his third attempt to cross the Atlantic in three years and this time he took the most direct route, setting off from Cape May, New Jersey where his father is buried, and heading eastwards, stopping briefly in the Azores for refueling.

Two fishing boats from Inishboffin guided The Falcarragh across Ballyness Bay to the pier at Falcarragh and a delighted Joseph disembarked on home soil. "I have just arrived in Falcarragh and there is a reception of local people here to meet me and it is just great to be here at last. Mickey Feeney and Tommy McGinley, two Inisboffin fishermen, guided me in across Ballyness Bay to Falcarragh. That was the most tricky part of the journey -- coming in over the bank through Ballyness Bay."

He had hoped to arrive in time for American Independence Day on July 4 but poor weather slowed his progress.

Joe Ferrys voyage from America to Falcarragh 2006

Eleven in the morning, July 17, 2006, townsmen and women of Falcarragh gather to greet JPF.
At right, Ferry wraps himself in Irish flag, and the hospitality of the Doohans, and his cousins - the the Clarkes, Duffys and Duggans, Pat Keegan and Breege Ferry.

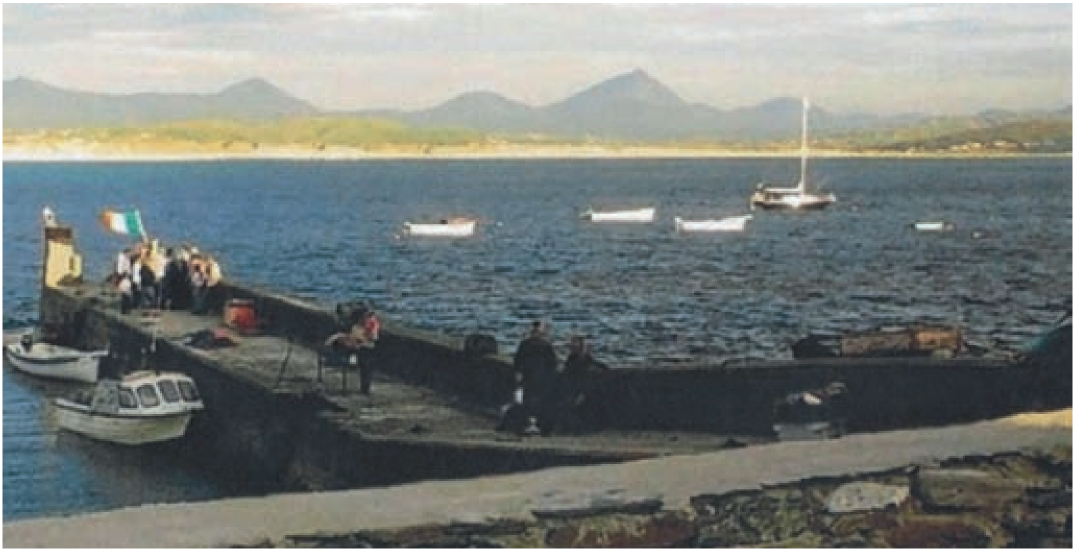
Joe's father was born on a farm that fronts the Atlantic coast, outside Falcarragh. Joe Ferry and his wife, Kitty Gallagher Ferry, once owned a small farm in the Derryveagh Mountains overlooking the sea.
Making a living in Ireland at that time proved to be a challenge, so Ferry and his wife moved back to Philadelphia where he became a parochial school teacher, then a social worker for the City of Philadelphia. They raised three children, Kathleen, Jody, and Danny.

"This Atlantic salt flows in my veins, it is the soup in which my kin's lives have stirred. By no means is my intended trip meant to conquer anything, discover any unknown, or test any mettle. I'd just like to spend some time on the waters between here and then, and maybe close a circle that was opened seventy-five years ago with my father's migration," Joe said before he departed on the trip.

Joe Ferrys voyage from America to Falcarragh 2006

Jimila Ferry, JPF, Micky Ferry, Tom McGinley. The Inis Bo Finne men that guided Falcarragh the final few miles.

Micky Ferry and Tom McGinley fishermen of Inis Bo Finne, bring Ferry in.



Focal ó Noel

le Noel Ó Gallachóir

Tá a lorg fágtha go smior ag an tSean Bheairic ar shaol sóisialta agus cultúrtha Chloich Cheann Fhaola le corradh agus fiche bliain anuas. An baicle beag sin ó Chumann Turasóireachta agus Trádála an Fháil Charraigh a chuaigh i gceann oibre le sean bheairic na bpóilíní a athchóiriú mar ionad don phobal agus do chuairteoirí, is beag a shíl siad go mbeadh toradh chomh fónta sin ar a bhfís agus ar a bhfiontraíocht. Is léiriú atá sa chuma álainn atá ar an fhoirgneamh athchóirithe leathnaithe agus ar ainm an ionaid féin ar a ndáiríreacht agus ar a ndíograis chomh maith lena meas dá gceantar dúchais agus don Ghaeilge.

Ionad den chéad scoth atá sa tSean Bheairic d'imeachtaí cultúir de gach cineál. Is iomaí ceolchoirm agus dráma, seoladh leabhair agus taispeántas a bhí anseo le fiche bliain. Léirigh mé féin mo chuid drámaí aonair – Idir Dhá Cheann na hImní fá shaol thragóideach agus fá shaothar chumhachtach an scríbhneora Seosamh Mac Grianna agus Ó Pheann an Phiarsaigh fá shaol agus fá shaothar Phádraig Mhic Phiarais – anseo sa tSean Bheairic in 2015 agus in 2016. Thaitin an halla beag teolaí go mór liom agus bhraith mé ar mo shuaimhneas san ionad cluthmhar seo.

Noel Ó Gallachóir

Tá clú agus cáil bainte amach ag an bhialann bhlasta anseo mar áit le bualadh le daoine agus mar láthair caidrimh, comhluadair agus comhrá. Bhí géarghá sa cheantar le siopa leabhar agus ceardaíochta agus is áis iontach é do scríbhneoirí agus do cheardaithe áitiúla lena saothar a chur ar taispeáint do mhuintir na háite agus do chuairteoirí.

Tá cuid mhór déanta ag an tSean Bheairic leis an Ghaeilge agus le hoidhreacht na háite a chothú agus a chaomhnú ó chuaigh siad i gceann oibre scór bliain ó shin. Tháinig bláth agus fás ar na ranganna éagsúla a bhíonn ar siúl anseo ó cheann ceann na bliana. Tá cuid mhór déanta ag an choiste dúthrachtach agus ag na bainisteoirí cumasacha a bhí i mbun an ionaid le gnéithe éagsúla de shaíocht na háite a shábháil agus a shaibhriú. Is iomaí féile agus tionól a cuireadh ar siúl ann le scór bliain. Thug Corn Cuimhneacháin Éamoinn Ghráinne, ar cuireadh tús leis in 2013, agus an scoláireacht bhliantúil

Noel Ó Gallachóir - Ó Pheann an Phiarsaigh

a bronntar in onóir Éamoinn, spreagadh mór do ghlún úr d’amhránaithe sean-nóis an cheantair. Déantar freastal go fiúntach anseo ar réimse iomlán na n-ealaíon do shean agus d’óg.

Is dóigh liom gur céim thábhachtach a bhí i mbunú na Sean Bheairice agus muid ag déanamh athshealbhú ar ár ndúchas agus ar ár n-oidhreacht féin anseo i gCloich Cheann Fhaola. Tá beairic péas an RIC, a bhí mar chomhartha dár ndaorsmacht agus dár mbraighdeanas ar feadh na mblianta, anois i seilbh ár muintire féin agus ag freastal ar ár bpobal féin. Go dté an tSean Bheairic ó neart go neart san am atá le theacht!

Noel Ó Gallchóir

Paddy Harte

It seems appropriate that I began to write this article on the 1st May. Here in Ireland, as in most countries of Europe, this is the day we say goodbye to winter and welcome in the brighter days of summer. As you know, the festival of Bealtaine from ancient times means "bright fire" and is a time for looking forward with hope. In the same way as it took a whole community to build the celebratory bon fires of Bealtaine, it takes a whole community to ignite the passion needed to make, what Seamus Heaney describes as "the home place", a vibrant place to live.

And this is exactly what happened with the restoration of An tSean Bheairic. The project was the brainchild of people of vision and commitment who came together to achieve something great for their community by transforming a building, which was a relic of a sometimes difficult past, to one which looks to the future in terms of the Irish language, culture, community and business.

When Josie Doohan asked me to write these few words about An tSean Bheairic, I felt very honoured as I have always been very proud of the small part I played in what was, and continues to be, a really impressive community effort. In fact, I had the privilege of experiencing what can be done with the right combination of positive

energy from the community, contagious enthusiasm of local leaders and commitment and hard work of all the people involved. In today's parlance of pandemics, this combination provides the vaccine critical to boosting our social immune system against the challenges we face in rural Ireland and it enables people with passion, like the members of this committee, to help "the home places" to grow and thrive in a sustainable way.

My first encounter with the committee members was the result of a phone call from Josie and an invitation from Séamus Mac Aoidh to come to meet the committee members. Their belief in the project was so contagious (saying "No" to either of them isn't easy!) that I was totally smitten by their idea to transform the old and derelict RIC barracks into a vibrant community resource.

The knights of the round table

There was one defining evening in the Rake Pub when, like Cathal Mac Suibhne, I realised that this committee really meant business. As the meeting went on, it became clear to me that this was a serious and able group of people proposing a really worthwhile initiative and I was just delighted to be involved. There is also a rumour that it was a great plate of fish and chips that sealed the deal but I'll say nothing about that!

Pádraig Ó Ceallaigh agus Seosamh Mac Pháidín

Ag Lasadh Tine ar na Croisbhealaí

le Paddy Harte

A wise old friend and mentor of mine, PJ Molloy, who many of you will remember, gave me many pieces of advice in his time. One of his fundamental beliefs was the importance of what he called the "teachable moment", a time when all the elements come together to make something possible. You could say, it's the spark that ignites the "bright fire" of Bealtaine.

When I look back at the work of the International Fund for Ireland, I realise that its success depends heavily on developing strong relationships. In this regard, I cannot overstate the invaluable working relationship between Cathal and myself and many of the staff who worked in Údarás na Gaeltachta during the years that I worked here. We all agreed, that if the Irish language and culture was to survive in the Gaeltacht, then there needed to be vibrant communities where people could make their lives. To achieve that, economic development was crucial and together we set out to identify and support community enterprises powered by local people across the Donegal Gealtacht.

So given this relationship, when we met the committee on their mission to develop An tSean Bheairic, we realised that we had indeed happened upon a "teachable moment". Las muid an tine ag na croisbhealaí! This was the time for An tSean Bheairic.

The committee and staff of An tSean Bheairic can be rightfully proud of the contribution they have made, and continue to make, to this success story. Dá mbeadh an teach seo ábalta labhairt bheadh sé ag insint scéil faoi conas a d'fhás teach úr fáilteach ón tsean teach. Tá sé ina sheasamh anois go bródúil ar phríomhshráid na gCroisbhealaí. Tá dóchas mór ag muintir na háite anois agus an tine seo lasta agus súil acu go mbeidh sí lasta go deo.

Solas at Home in An tSean Bheairic

le Brendan Hone

Brendan Hone

Solas Donegal is an outdoor walking programme - an ecotherapy programme – which supports people in their mental health recovery. It has developed a very special connection over the years with An tSean Bheairic (The Old Barracks) in Falcarragh, Co. Donegal where it has been based since 2004.

Solas Donegal was the initiative of Falcarragh-based Brendan Hone, a Programme Manager with the HSE. Back in 2003, Brendan sought and managed to secure funding from the HSE for this outdoor recreational programme . . . an innovative programme in Donegal, novel in its approach to mental health recovery (as it was co-designed and delivered with the expertise of people attending mental health services).

The next major step for Brendan was to find a suitable location for Solas. Its base was pivotal to the programme. It had to be somewhere at the heart of a local community, somewhere community-minded and separate to traditional psychiatric services. Fortuitously in 2003, An tSean Bheairic had recently opened in Falcarragh so Brendan approached its committee to enquire about housing the Solas programme. This heritage centre seemed to be the perfect fit. It was community-based with a Café, a Craft shop, a Visitor Information Point, a library and conference facilities. It also delivered adult education classes and courses throughout the year and was operating as a not-for-profit organisation. It was unique too, in that, it was a non-HSE base, separate from traditional mental health services so it provided a discreet base for a programme whose aspiration was to be embedded in the local community. Fortunately, the committee warmly welcomed the proposal and facilitated the service moving into the building.

The partnership between the Solas programme and An tSean Bheairic proved harmonious. Any challenges or problems identified by Solas were promptly addressed by the committee; a group composed of local characters who delivered on their word. As a result, the Solas programme became an anchor tenant in the building and remains there to this day.

Solas at Home in An tSean Bheairic

le Brendan Hone

Solas has fully embraced An tSean Bheairic as a community-based location for its Mental Health Recovery programme. The centre's Gaelic culture, welcome and ethos have proven a haven for Solas participants; and a home from home for those of the participants who are bi-lingual.

As an outdoor walking programme, the emphasis of Solas is walking, talking and listening in our beautiful green spaces, and developing therapeutic relationships that support mental health recovery. It is a free, confidential Health Service Executive (HSE) programme for people experiencing mental health difficulties – for example, anxiety, depression – and for people open to attending a programme of group walks in nature to support their recovery.

Solas Donegal has grown and developed over the years and as well as its base in Falcarragh, it is now also based in Buncrana. Additional locations for the programme are currently being developed in Donegal.
Since 2003, hundreds of people have passed through the doors of An tSean Bheairic to join the Solas programme as participants. Its location in the heart of the town is both symbolic and practical, with Mangan's bus stopping right outside the building, ferrying participants to and from Letterkenny and other locations. Its café has provided solace, warmth and much welcome sustenance after a long walk in nature in Donegal's wonderful and varied climate!

The Solas programme is extremely grateful to the committee and staff of An tSean Bheairic for their initial and continued céad míle fáilte. Go raibh míle maith agaibh!

If you would like to find out more about the Solas programme, please get in touch by phone or email at (074) 91 65058 or christina.greene@hse.ie or visit our website: www.solasdonegal.org

Pobal, Cultúr agus Teanga - Saothar na Sean Bheairice

le Seanán Mac Aoidh

Is mór iad na hathruithe a tháinig ar an tSean Bheairic ón am a raib na péas ar ceathrún anseo i mblianta corracha chogadh an talaimh sa 19ú céad. Bhí an foirgneamh fuar fann folamh agus díomhaoin i ndeireadh na naochaidí nuair a chuir daoine gníomhacha ceannródaíocha sa phobal suim ann gur shocraigh siad ar ionad a chur ar bun ann fá choinne theacht na mílaoise. Tá caifé, leabharlann agus áiseanna eile an ionaid i gcroílár shaol an phobail sa lá atá inniu ann. Le tacaíocht na heagraíochta POBAL, tá An tSean Bheairic ag freastal ar mhuintir na háite agus ar chuairteoirí araon le seirbhís i nGaeilge agus i mBéarla ón uair a bunaíodh í corradh is fiche bliain ó shin.

Seanán MacAoidh

Cuirtear céad míle fáilte roimh achan duine sa tSean Bheairic agus déantar cinnte go n-eagraítear imeachtaí agus deiseanna le linn na bliana do dhaoine a bhfuil réimsí suime éagsúla acu agus cuirtear tacaíocht

ar leith ar fáil do theanga dhúchais an cheantair Ghaeltachta seo i gclár oibre na Sean Bheairice. Ghlac mise le post an bhainisteora i samhradh na bliana 2019 agus é mar chúram orm clár oibre ilghnéitheach na Sean Bheairice a reáchtáil. Is maith mar atá ag éirí lenár saothar cé gur am dúshlánach atá ann don tSean Bheairic ó thús na paindéime go luath in 2020.

As a building lying empty, being rescued from dereliction by a foresightful and pioneering local committee, it has changed hugely from being a barracks that housed the RIC in the turbulent years of the land war in the nineteenth century. An tSean Bheairic was founded for the arrival of the millennium and with support from POBAL, its café, library and other facilities are at the centre of community life today. An tSean Bheairic has since its foundation, over twenty years ago, provided service in the Irish and English languages to the local community and visitors alike. Everyone is very welcome in An tSean Bheairic and we make sure that we organise events and opportunities during the year for people who have a variety of interests. Particular support is given to the native language of this Gaeltacht area in the work of An tSean Bheairic. I took on the position of manager in the summer of 2019 with the responsibility of running the multifaceted programme of An tSean Bheairic. Our work has seen great success however it has been a challenging time for An tSean Bheairic since the beginning of the pandemic early in 2020.

Cuireann An tSean Bheairic clár iomlán oideachais ar fáil d'óg agus aosta, ina measc ranganna ealaíne, ranganna damhsa agus go leor eile. Ní thiocfadh seo a dhéanamh achab é an tacaíocht a bheir an ETB dúinn. Mar chuid thábhachtach dár gclár oideachais agus dár gcuid oibre sa phleanáil teanga, agus le tacaíocht fhiúntach ó Údarás na Gaeltachta, reáchtálann muid ranganna Gaeilge a thig leis an mhúnla TEG (Teastas Eorpach na Gaeilge) sa dóigh is gur féidir le rannpháirtithe cáilíocht aitheanta a bhaint amach a chruthóidh an caighdeán Gaeilge atá acu. Lena chois sin, eagraíonn muid deiseanna comhrá d'fhoghlaimeoirí Gaeilge sa cheantar.

Pobal, Cultúr agus Teanga - Saothar na Sean Bheairice

le Seanán Mac Aoidh

An tSean Bheairic provides a full educational programme for young and old, including arts classes dance classes and much else. This would not be possible if it were not for the support of the ETB. Central to our educational programme and to our work in the language planning process are the Irish language classes that we organise with the generous support of Údarás na Gaeltachta. These classes correspond to the TEG (Teastas Eorpach na Gaeilge) format so as participants can work towards a recognised qualification demonstrating their Irish language ability. As well as this, we also organise conversational opportunities for learners of the Irish language.

Cuireann An tSean Bheairic réimse leathan imeachtaí ar siúl mar chuid dár gclár cultúrtha agus is iomaí sin ceolchoirm agus ceardlann a bhíonn againn le linn na bliana. I gcroílár ár gcláir chultúrtha tá Tionscnamh Éamoinn Ghráinne atá ainmnithe as an cheoltóir agus an seanchaí áitiúil,

Éamonn Ghráinne Mac Ruairí. Faoin tionscnamh seo, le tacaíocht ó Ealaín na Gaeltachta, cuireann muid ranganna agus ceardlanna san amhránaíocht ar an tsean-nós, sa damhsa ar an tsean-nós agus sa scéalaíocht thraidisiúnta ar siúl sa tSean Bheairic féin agus i scoileanna i bparóiste Chloich Cheann Fhaola.

Also, we organise a wide array of events as part of our cultural programme and we hold many's a concert and a workshop throughout the year. At the heart of our cultural programme is Tionscnamh Éamoinn Ghráinne, named after local singer, musician and seanchaí, Eamonn Ghráinne Mac Ruairí. As part of this project, with the support of Ealaín na Gaeltachta, we hold classes and workshops in sean-nós singing, dancing and traditional storytelling both inside An tSean Bheairic agus in local schools in the parish of Cloich Cheann Fhaola.

Achan bhliain eagraíonn muid Féile na Sean Bheairice, a bhíonn ar siúl i mí an Mheithimh de ghnáth, ina ndéantar ceiliúradh ar an amhránaíocht agus ar an damhsa ar an tsean-nós agus ina léirítear cineálacha úra ceoil fosta. Mar chuid de Fhéile na Sean Bheairice bíonn Corn Éamoinn Ghráinne san amhránaíocht ar an tsean-nós ar

siúl agus Corn na Sean Bheairice sa damhsa ar an tsean-nós. I mí na Nollag eagraíonn muid Féile Scéalaíochta na Glaise i gcomhpháirt le Coiste Fhéile Scéalaíochta na Glaise agus bíonn imeachtaí agus comórtais scéalaíochta d'óg agus aosta ar siúl i rith na féile sin. Lena chois sin, is gnáth go mbíonn imeachtaí de chuid Fhéile Ealaíne an Eargail, Féile Nasc na nGael, Wainfest, Féile na Bealtaine, Oíche Chultúir, Deireadh Seachtaine Oidhreachta Thulacha Bheigile agus FestiFál againn sa tSean Bheairic.

Every year we organise Féile na Sean Bheairice, which is usually held in June, during which the local community celebrates the strong traditions of sean-nós singing and dancing and in which we also host other forms of contemporary music. As part of Féile na Sean Bheairice we hold Corn Éamoinn Ghráinne, our local competition for sean-nós singers, and Corn na Sean Bheairice, our competition for sean-nós dancers. In December we co-organise Féile Scéalaíochta na Glaise with Coiste Fhéile Scéalaíochta na Glaise. This storytelling festival is a great opportunity to experience the best of Donegal's Irish language storytellers at our events and competitions. We also host events for the Errigal Arts Festival, Féile Nasc na nGael, Wainfest, Féile na Bealtaine, Culture Night, Tullaghobegly Heritage Walking Weekend

and FestiFál.

Tá coiste agus foireann na Sean Bheairice ag dúil go mór le neart blianta rathúla amach anseo ag déanamh seirbhíse do phobal an Fháil Charraigh agus Chloich Cheann Fhaola agus do chuairteoirí chun an cheantair.

The board and staff of An tSean Bheairic look forward to many more successful years serving the communities of An Fál Carrach and Cloich Cheann Fhaola agus visitors to the area.

Seanán Mac Aoidh

Iar-bainisteoir na Sean Bheairice