

X-PO

Newsletter No 1

X-PO Local Exchange, Kilnaboy, Co Clare.

Local artist Deirdre O'Mahony will take over the old Kilnaboy Post Office and reopen it as a community Culture Point this autumn. Deirdre is currently doing a PhD in the University of Brighton and the X-PO will form the basis for her research into contemporary rural landscape in the west of Ireland. Her aim is to reactivate the kind of incidental community energy onsite that was once commonly associated with the day to day business of rural Post Offices all over Ireland.

The **X-PO** will be open for two days a week over the next 10 months. Initial projects will involve 'active listening' and material gathering for an archive of local knowledge about Kilnaboy, both place and people. The initial focus is on Mattie Rynne who was the former postmaster in Kilnaboy. Deirdre is hoping to build an archive of stories, photographs and books and the other objects that remain in the former post office as a starting point in documenting the local knowledge about the locality. It is hoped that the tracing and documenting of practices, customs and networks of the community in the past will help reveal and clarify the nature, needs and aspirations of the community of the present.

The **X-PO** will have two rooms open one of which will be available as a gathering point for clubs and groups of members of the community; examples could be a book club, knitting, photography or painting clubs, film or philosophy clubs. The other room will become an archive/office and exhibition space showing examples of historic and contemporary artists work which has a direct connection to Kilnaboy. It will also house a computer, scanner and recording equipment to gather local stories and photographs of Kilnaboy.

The location and history of the Post Office at Kilnaboy, as well as the wealth of local anecdote connecting the community to the place, should make it an ideal start point for a cultural hub. The potential will be there for it to continue beyond the timeline of this X PO project, as a self sustaining local cultural resource. Documentation of the project will be made available to the community to assist in future applications to maintain such a space in Kilnaboy.

For more information contact:

Deirdre O'Mahony

Tel: 086 8699973

or by email on

xpo.kilnaboy@gmail.com

Program to date:

2 0 0 7

Sept/Oct Document, clean and paint interior.

Organise 'meithel' for exterior paintwork.

Print fliers, send press release to the Local Notes in the Clare Champion, the Clare People and Clare FM. Advertise day for painting exterior.

Distribute response postcards requesting information on desired activities for the space to all on the Kilnaboy electoral register and to all primary and secondary school pupils, and to the nearest Post Office - Corofin.

Begin archive of existing material.

Evaluator visits and report (1)

November Purchase computer and install Internet connection.

Furnish and open office as drop-in space.

Exhibit Mattie Rynne Archive and open Tues. and Wed through Nov.

(this is the minimum time the space will be open to the public, it can be open more with volunteer assistance).

Document and record responses.

Set up local history recording booth.

Set up scanner for photographic archive.

December Collate and re-present response to archive and community.

Exhibition of local artist Peter Daffy's paintings of the parish.

Exhibit Sean Taylor DVD of The Blushing Hills, a hot-air Balloon-flight over the Burren in 2005 which was commission for Ground Up 1.

Record future actions determined by community and disseminate through local press. Program agreed actions from Jan-July

<http://www.shiftingground.net/>

A R T I N R U R A L C O N T E X T S