

## Arranmore Excluded from National Car Test Amnesty

The new National Car Test (NCT), introduced on 1st January 2000, requires all cars made prior to 1992 be tested for road worthiness and environmental emissions.. An exemption was made which includes cars "permanently based on islands not connected to the mainland by road or roll-on-roll-off ferry", which means most of Ireland's offshore islands have been excluded. The test will apply to cars on Arranmore, Valentia in Co Kerry, Achill in Co Mayo and Bere Island, Co Cork.

## Community Employment Scheme

The Minister of State for Arts, Heritage, the Gaeltacht and the Islands, Mr Éamon Ó Cuiv has confirmed that islanders are exempt from changes to the new Community Employment Scheme regulations which prevents under-25's from joining the schemes. Islanders over 21 will be accepted on the schemes.

### At a Glance

- 19 islanders were confirmed on Wednesday 29 th March at St Crone's Chapel, followed by a meal for family members in the Ferryboat Restaurant.
- A body found by fishermen 100 miles West of Arranmore is believed to be that of a French Fisherman who was lost on 24 th December, 1999.
- Congratulations to Cathal McCauley, son of John McCauley, Aphort, who came second in his class in The All Ireland National Youth Boxing Championships last weekend.

Issue #1

# Nuacht Árainn Mhór

April, 2000

## Calendar of Events

- 13 th May 2000, 3 pm**  
**Pollawaddy Boathouse** - Naming of the new IR£2 Million Severn Class lifeboat "Wyrle Maud". More information in May Newsletter.
- 5th June 2000** - Sponsored walk of Arranmore Island in aid of Rehab.
- 30 th July 2000** - RNLI fund raising Regatta
- 2 nd August 2000** - Inis Caorach Reunion
- September 2000, Beaver Island, MI, USA** - Twinning ceremony for Arranmore Island, Co. Donegal, Ireland and Beaver Island, Michigan, USA will take place on Beaver Island.

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## Welcome

Welcome to the monthly newsletter for Arranmore Island, Co. Donegal. This will be posted

- in an e-mail format to subscribed users on the Arranmore web page
- directly on the Arranmore web page
- in print form to be distributed on the island.

Any articles, stories and news for the newsletter will be very welcome and will be posted in the month following submission. There is also a calendar of events for the island so if you know of any events of interest to islanders let me know and I can include it in the list. Submissions can be made to [arranmore-island@esatclear.ie](mailto:arranmore-island@esatclear.ie), FAX 075-20127, or Nuacht Árainn Mhór, Illion, Arranmore Island, Co. Donegal, Ireland. The deadline is the 25 th day of each month. If there is anybody out there who wishes to sponsor the newsletter to cover copying costs for local distribution, let me know.

Seamus Bonner

**FREE**, Please Take One

## Proposed Leisure Centre for Arranmore

A public meeting was held in the Community Centre to discuss the construction of a proposed leisure centre with a gym and swimming pool on the island. The meeting was organised by the Women's Group who carried out a survey of islander's regarding the proposal. A petition of over 500 names has been gathered and efforts are underway to secure the remaining 50% funding required.

## Arranmore Island going ".com"

The Arranmore web site will be moving to its new domain: [www.arainnmhor.com](http://www.arainnmhor.com) in the coming weeks. This move will include a change of computer server with faster access to the sites pages.

## European Small Islands Federation Proposed

Comhdháil Oileáin na hÉireann (The Irish Islands Federation) has called for a European Small Islands Federation to be set up to promote cooperation in joint ventures such as marketing, cultural tourism, lobbying for improved services and EU funding. The proposal was made at a recent conference on his Oirr, Co. Galway which was attended by delegates from Denmark, France, Sweden, Finland & Scotland.

## Island Development Committee Formed

At the same meeting an Island Development Committee was formed to identify and implement projects which will benefit the island community. The island has had no Committee for a number of years and it was felt that the aims of the island community could be better served if presented to the relevant government and other agencies through a body rather than individually. The committee will hold its first meeting on Wednesday 5th April. The first task of the Committee will be to identify the needs particular to Arranmore and any ideas or proposals would be gratefully received (by contacting committee members directly or by using an e-mail address which will be posted on the new site for this purpose). Updates/progress will be posted in this newsletter as well as the Arranmore web site.

Members are:

Seamus Bonner (075-20546)  
Philip 'The Glen' Boyle (075 20505)  
Anna Gallagher (075 20910)  
Kathleen "Nancy" Gallagher (075 20727)  
Terry McGowan (075 20128)  
Bernadette Mullins (075 20144)  
Grace Ward (075 20511)

## Get Well Soon

Bernard "Una" Byrne is recovering following an operation in St. James Hospital in Dublin. Notes etc can be sent to: Bernard Byrne, Patrick Dunne Ward, St. James's Hospital, Dublin, Ireland.  
Charlie "Dolly" Boyle is recovering in Letterkenny Hospital following a hip operation.  
Rosie McHugh has returned home after a brief spell in hospital.  
Jim Sunkes, a Beaver Islander recently underwent a triple heart bypass and is recovering in hospital in the US. Well wishers can e-mail Jim at: [Jasunkes@aol.com](mailto:Jasunkes@aol.com). We wish them all a speedy recovery.

## Arranmore Dancer by Áine Bonner

Arranmore girl Emma Muldowney hopes to dance her way to a gold medal in this year's Irish Dancing World Championships. The competition is to be held in Belfast's Waterfront Hotel on Easter Sunday - for the very first time it will take place in Northern Ireland.

Emma, aged 14, who has recently moved to Arranmore with her parents, qualified for the competition by ranking highly in the British National Championships last year. She has been dancing for the past seven years and already has numerous prizes and titles to her name. She was both fourteenth and fifth in All Ireland competitions and in 1997 she was champion of the North West Region in England. Emma's success continued in 1998 when she became North American Champion

and in 1999 she gained third position in the World Championships. Emma says her success is down to three things: practice, practice and more practice. She dances for at least two hours each and every day and attends the McCafferty School of Dancing every Saturday.

When asked about her future plans, Emma immediately says she wants to be a dancing teacher. In order to teach in countries outside England, Emma needs to be able to speak Irish, so she is eager to do well in this subject at school. On Easter Sunday she will dance in the under 15 competition and will be competing against two hundred girls from across the globe. She gives away no secrets about the dress she plans to wear, but she promises it will not disappoint the adjudicators. Emma's mother, Noreen Muldowney (nee Boyle, Ballintra) is her dressmaker so she gets nothing but the best!

On the day, Emma will perform a slip jig, a soft shoe dance, and a hornpipe, which is danced in a hard shoe. If she performs well and gets through to the next stage, Emma will choose a third dance herself. She tells us that she feels nervous but fairly confident about the event. So Emma, from everyone here on the island - "Break a leg!!".

## Deaths

The death has taken place of Bridget "Maya" O'Donnell on 27 th March 2000. The funeral took place on the island on Wednesday 29 th March. She is survived by her daughters Maureen McGlanaghey, Noreen Martin and her son James-Gerald O'Donnell. R.I.P.