



UL ENGAGE

Community Briefing

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Adare Heritage Project

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UNIVERSITY of LIMERICK
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Promoting University Community Collaboration

THE BRIEF

Project Aim

The overall aim of this project was to inform visitors to the town of Adare about the rich culture and history of the cottages and the town itself. In order to inform the arriving visitors about who lived in the cottages, and what they were used for, research was conducted and conversations with local community members were held. This information was compiled as a brochure, thus presenting the history of the town to anyone who visits and has a yearning and a curiosity for the knowledge.

Project Objectives

The project objective was to:

- develop a brochure that contained information about two different cottages in Adare. The purpose was to present their history and background of the people who had previously lived in them.
- The brochure was to be developed in a format where visitors could easily read the information and learn more about the cottages.

Project Rationale

This project is being undertaken because there is currently no formal presentation of the history on the cottages and its previous inhabitants. The community would like to have an information brochure that visitors can pick up upon their arrival to beautiful town of Adare, therefore the purpose of the project was to develop a brochure for them.

COMMUNITY

Overview of Community Organisation

Resting in County Limerick, one of Ireland's prettiest villages sits on the banks of the River Maigue. The town of Adare, which was founded in the 13th century, holds lots of little jewels that can be found amongst its local shops and in beautiful conversations with the warm and friendly locals. Adare has been designated as a Heritage Town and has won various Tidy Town Awards, and is home to many important historical buildings such as the Augustinian Priory, Desmond Castle and thatched roof cottages. This small town is rich in history and culture and should be visited by all those who come to Ireland.

Community Partners



Eleanor Purcell

Originally from Mungret, Eleanor Purcell is a shopkeeper and a volunteer secretary of Adare Tidy Towns. She enjoys meeting tourists in her shop and working towards the preservation of the Adare Cottages. Ms. Purcell is the main community contact and she provided a plethora of information and resources for the project. Ms. Purcell is a sweet lady and is a pleasure to know and to work with.



Tom Cassidy

Born in Dublin and raised outside of Galway City, Tom Cassidy moved to the Midwest in the 1980's to work with the Hunt Museum's Trust in Limerick City. After a lot of hard work he became the Director of the living history interpretation centre at Craggaunowen in County Clare. Since 2000, Mr. Cassidy has been the Architectural Conservation Officer for Limerick. He has been interested in Adare's history when he began studying the Manor's origins for a private client. Mr. Cassidy is a member of ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites) and visits historic towns, archaeological sites, and focuses on World Heritage Sites. Mr. Cassidy provided the project with information about the archaeology and the Dunraven Family history. He is an asset to the community and to us, and a great guy to work with.



Lucy Erridge

Lucy is one of the cottage owners in Adare and she runs a small shop called Lucy Erridge Crafts, Fashion, and Art. As an owner of one of the cottages, she is interested in the history behind the building her business is run in. Lucy provided us with the water-colored images of the cottages that we used in the brochure.



Matthew Potter

Originally from the town of Clarina, Co. Limerick, Matthew currently works as a curator for the Museum of Limerick. Matthew first became interested in the history of Adare and its cottages as he did extensive research on the landed gentry in the county of Limerick. An interesting fact about Matthew is that he has written 14 books! Matthew kindly provided us with useful tips about how to find the individuals who have connections to the cottages and with a solid direction on where to go to get more information on the families.

Martin Ryan *(Not Pictured)*

Martin is a local historian in the town of Adare. He was kind enough to meet with us and provide us with plentiful information on the history of the Dunraven family and the individuals who live in the cottages.

STUDENTS



Kylie Donehoo– Northern Arizona University

I am enjoying my time studying abroad at the University of Limerick. At my home university I am studying psychology with a communications minor. I live at Grand Canyon where I enjoy hiking, cooking, and spending time with my family and friends. I also have grown up around a lot of history and I have gone to school and have worked in historic buildings, so when I had the opportunity to work with the history of Adare, I was excited to take it. It has been a pleasure working with the individuals at UL and with the community members in Adare.



Stephanie Gonzalez – California Baptist University

This Spring semester I am a study abroad student here at the University of Limerick. I am a Business Administration major at my home university and it is a field of study that I very much enjoy. A few interesting facts about me is that I absolutely love to travel and learn about new cultures. I also really enjoy movies, cooking and spending time with my family. I am enjoying my time here at UL very much and I am very grateful to be taking part in this experience working with the town of Adare as a UL Engage Practicum student.

OUTCOMES

In the course of this semester, we have ended strongly with **three** outcomes. We have created a brochure, an informational poster, and have put together the research and information that can be used in the future.

The brochure that we created gives a history on the Wyndham-Quin family and the Dunraven name, who had the cottages built on main street in Adare. We also added a section on the architecture, to give the readers information about how they were built. On the backside of the brochure, we took the information from the previous semester on the cottages, this includes the use of the cottage and the the history of the families and individuals who occupied the space. Then we added the information that we found on three additional cottages with the hopes that it will end up in the tourist information center for the visitors to learn about the significance of the cottages and appreciate their history.

After conducting research on the town's history and the cottages, we put together a poster that was shown to a group of delegates, as well as, the other University of Limerick Practicum students. The poster was then transferred to the Heritage Center in Adare and was showcased there for a period of time.

Lastly, we put together all the information that we have received and that we have found, so that future students or individuals that need access to the information will be able to find it with ease.

We are very content and proud with our final product and poster, and we are so thankful to have been a part of this experience within the community of Adare.

TESTIMONIALS



I found working with you both very interesting and fun. You had an understanding of what you were doing very quickly and I think your work so far has been very good. I feel that we are one step closer to having a great brochure on the cottages of Adare. I know how important the cottages are to the people of Adare, so it is wonderful to have our town be a part of a great program such as UL Engage.

Eleanor Purcell

The University Connect Programme Provides an opportunity for fresh, youthful, enthusiastic eyes and mind to look at historic areas and suggest solutions and alternative approaches, sometimes challenging, for their better utilization and management in the future.



Tom Cassidy

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Complete research on the three remaining cottages, pending permission from cottage owners. This information can be found in the 1901 and 1911 censuses.
- Develop an audio tour or a QR code tour for visitors that could begin at the heritage centre and finish at the gates of Adare Manor
- Conduct informal interviews with local individuals of Adare who have knowledge of the town's history.
- Locate Fr. Flannigan's census and utilize information from it.
- Include the newly found information on cottages on Adare website for people to read.
- Create information signs to be placed near each cottage for visitors to read.
- Meet with Matthew Potter for tips and recommendations on how to organize and conduct research efficiently

GALLERY



The Cottage's



The Blue Door Restaurant & Cottage



Ida & Mary McGrath. Their family lived in Lucy's cottage for over 100 years



Eleanor Purcell's Cottage



The Town of Adare



View of the Trinitarian Priory



Workers of the Adare Cigarette Co. 1910



Newly Restored Adare Courthouse



Augustinian Priory



The Cottage's



The Adare Restaurant & Cottage



The Cottage's



A View of the Trinitarian Priory



Facts seen at the entrance to Adare



Welcome to Adare



Desmond Castle

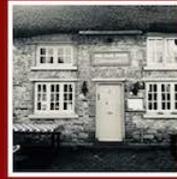


Entrance to Adare Manor

ADARE HERITAGE

HISTORY OF ADARE AND THE COTTAGES

The town of Adare was first founded in the 13th century on the River Maigue. The Geraldines of Kildare, one of the founding families of Ireland, built Adare during the Medieval times. The present village of Adare was mostly developed in the 19th century by the Dunraven family. In the early 19th century, the Earl of Dunraven developed plans for townhouses and streets, which are present to this day. It was in these plotted lands that the famous Adare cottages were constructed.



The Wyndham-Quin Legacy

The 2nd Earl of Adare, Windham Henry Wyndham-Quin, first began the construction of Adare manor in 1832. The estate's design was inspired by the 19th-century gothic revival in Britain and Ireland. Local craftsmen of Adare were hired to construct the magnificent manor. Henry's wife, Caroline Wyndham-Quin was an heiress to a coal mining fortune. She used her great wealth to expand Adare manor and later to build the cottages for the workers to live in. The family lived and worked in the manor from the 1830's until 1981 when it was sold and became a luxury hotel.



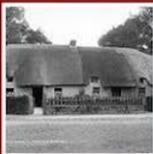
Dunraven Family Contribution

The Dunraven family's contribution to the Village of Adare is one that should not be forgotten. The family's construction of the Estate provided employment to the famine struck Irish population. The Dunraven's then built and provided their staff members with cottages for their homes, wages, and land on which to grow crops and raise livestock. The people of Adare, in return, provided the family with their labor and loyalty. Today the Dunraven family's legacy continues to live in Adare, where Geraldine Wyndham-Quin, Countess of Dunraven, now resides in the town's vicinity.

Architecture of Adare Cottages

The architecture of the houses are unique to Ireland but have British influences. The inspiration for the construction of these cottages came from a trip to Wales that was taken by Caroline Wyndham-Quin. During her time in Wales, she came across various little cottages and enjoyed them so much, that she decided to bring back the idea and build the same cottages in Adare.

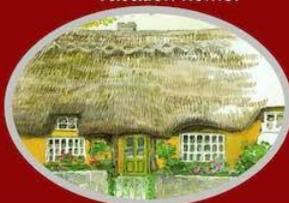
Constructed c. 1830, the thatched cottages were built using rubble stone construction with which they were bound together with clay and lime mortar. The cottages have different features such as the thatched roofs can be seen with an overhang, timber and cement windows, red brick blocks, chimney stacks, timber pillars holding up an awning, and a rubble stone wall to mark the boundaries between the different properties.



ADARE COTTAGES

The Gate Lodge Cottage

The Conolly Family lived in this cottage from 1868-1939 after taking it over from the Earl of Dunraven, who had possession from 1861-1868. James Conolly and his eldest son were both carpenters at the Adare Manor. The two Conolly daughters were dressmakers. Today, the cottage is still owned by the family and can be rented out as a vacation home.



Wild Geese Restaurant

This cottage was formally established as a tobacco factory by the 4th Earl of Dunraven. Tobacco was cultivated in Adare and throughout County Limerick. Sadly, the factory was destroyed in a fire on New Year's Day in 1917 and the Adare Cigarette factory shut down in 1922. Today the cottage is used as a high-end restaurant.



Lucy Erridge's Cottage

In 1868, this cottage was split into two separate buildings. The office and yard were used by the Roman Catholic clergy until 1929. In the early 1900's the McGrath family lived in the cottage and worked as carpenters and housekeepers. The family had two daughters and a younger son who was a scholar. In 1994, Lucy Erridge took ownership of the cottage and turned it into a small shop that sells crafts, fashionable items, and art.



Eleanor Purcell's Cottage

In 1860, John Collins moved into this cottage. He lived there for 22 years before his son, Denis Collins, took the title in 1886 and resided there until 1905. In 1906 the Earl of Dunraven lived there, and in 1907 Andrew Lowe moved in for six years before moving next door. Afterward, James Hayes lived in the cottage from 1928 until 1939. There are no records of who lived in the cottage from 1939 to 1965. Mrs. J. Scanlin took over the cottage in 1965 and from there, records began once again.



Blue Door Restaurant

What is now known as the Blue Door Cottage was once the longtime home of Mr. James Murray. Murray worked for the Dunraven family and lived in this cottage for 26 years. Patrick Lyons lived in the cottage from 1894 to 1939. In 1956, Stephen Neville took over the cottage and today it is an iconic restaurant within the community of Adare.



Kelly's Cottage

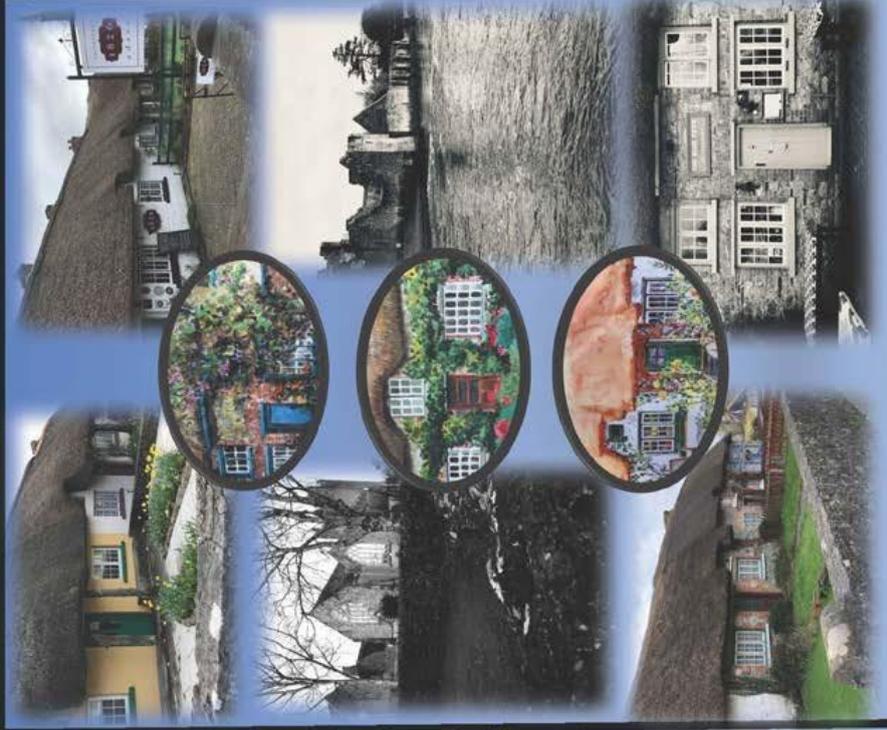
In the early 1860's, John Sullivan and his family moved into the cottage and lived there until 1882. Not long after, Patrick Glenny moved in with his family until his passing in 1905. In 1906 his family took the cottage title and it fell under Catherine Glenny's name until 1939. There is no further information on the occupants of this cottage until James Kelly moved in 1956.



This brochure was created by University of Limerick Practicum students in partnership with the Adare community in 2018

History of Adare Cottages

Kylie Donehoo & Stephanie Gonzalez
Academic Supervisor: Bernie Quillinan



Introduction

The village of Adare is home to the famous thatched roof cottages which have attracted the attention of visitors from all over the world. However, upon arrival, visitors are filled with questions about the cottage's construction and the individuals who lived in them.

Project Focus

- Research the history of cottages
- Meet with local community members to gather knowledge of the individuals who lived in the cottages
- Develop informational brochure on the thatched cottages

Project Research

- Utilized census records to trace back history of cottage owners
- Met with various local community representatives to learn more about Adare
- Organized meeting with community coordinator to establish steps needed to be taken to complete the project
- Looked into the Wyncham – Quin/Dunraven contribution to the community of Adare

Community Outcomes

- Community of Adare was in need of an informational brochure on cottages
- Adare is a town rich in culture and history and each cottage provides a story to share
- Community now has access to a brochure containing history on the town and cottages
- Visitors of Adare will now be able to be informed on cottages through brochure

Student Outcomes

- Gained many skills such as effective communication and organization with our community representatives
- Learned about the history of Adare and its cottages
- Increased our awareness and knowledge of a historical local Irish community
- Produced a high quality, informative brochure on the cottages that we gave back to the community of Adare
- Effectively pieced together history that had various gaps, in order to produce an informative brochure

Acknowledgements

We would like to formally thank Eleanor Purcell, our community coordinator, and the local community representatives of Adare.

AIEA THEMATIC FORUM

After having completed our project, we brought our informational brochure and other resources to the AIEA (Educators in Higher Education) Thematic Forum ***“From Service Learning to Engaged Learning: European Innovations in Study Abroad”***. At the conference, all of the UL Practicum International students had the opportunity to share with the attending delegates from Universities all around Europe, the U.S. and Canada about their final project and how they became involved with the program and their community/organization. During the event, we were able to speak with many different delegates who were curious about our experience with the program and what it was we had been working on the entire semester. We enjoyed being to share with them all of our hard work, our wonderful experience working alongside our community partners, and all the information that we learned about the town of Adare.

UL ENGAGE COMMUNITY SITE VISIT

After the delegates had the opportunity to walk through the project exposition, they were to be brought to a site visit for one of the communities/organizations working with UL Engage. The town of Adare, had the great privilege of being chosen as the community site visit location. We were also very lucky to have been invited to visit Adare, alongside the delegates and watch them get to experience the charm of of the town and its locals, as well as, seeing them learn more about its rich history and culture.

We started of our site visit with a private tour of Desmond Castle by Sandra O' Loughlin, the Adare Heritage Center tour guide. She did an amazing job condensing two hours worth of information into 45 minutes for the group. Next, we attended a community welcome speech for the delegates, and we were able to support our community partner, Eleanor Purcell when she spoke about Adare and Tidy Towns. While the delegates were able to explore the cottages, we went around and thanked the individuals that we worked with in the town. After that, the delegates were able to meet with Mrs. Geraldine Dunraven to learn about her involvement with the town, and the history behind the Dunraven name. We had to leave shortly thereafter, but the delegates were able to enjoy a nice dinner at the Dunraven Hotel.

GALLERY



Stephanie Gonzalez & Kylie Donehoo
Adare Heritage Project



Picture of our final product, brochure on the history of Adare and its cottages



Picture with Professor Desmond Fitzgerald,
President of UL and fellow UL Practicum
International students



Picture with our Community Co-ordinator,
Eleanor Purcell and local Adare shop keeper
and thatched cottage owner, Lucy Erridge



Desmond Castle



Kylie and the delegates arriving at Desmond Castle



Supporting our Community Partner at the Community Welcome Speech



Stephanie touring Desmond Castle with the delegates



Adare Ambassadors giving tours of Adare



Delegates touring Adare with the guides



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