



UL ENGAGE

Community Briefing

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Mungret Heritage Society Visitor's Room

Ryan Cafaro
Emily Lowerr
Morgan Tripamer



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Promoting University Community Collaboration

THE BRIEF

Mungret Heritage Society aims to create a functional visitor's centre explicating the history and culture of the Mungret Area, specifically in regards to the old Mungret College. The students were to take the goals and aims of the Heritage Society and create a working plan for the creation of the room as well as begin developing the room itself.



COMMUNITY PARTNERS

The Mungret area is a vibrant community, filled with people proud of their culture and past. In order to encapsulate the history of the old area, the Mungret Heritage Society is building a historical information room at Mungret College. The old Mungret College now houses a Christian school, a church, a coffee shop, a bookstore, and the Mungret Heritage Society. Throughout Mungret several interpretive panels explain the history and importance of Mungret Abbey, St. Nessian's Church, the graveyards, and several other sites (see Brochure for more information). Mungret Playground lies across the school and is an important addition to the Mungret community. Building an informational room explaining the importance of Mungret's history will enshrine the culture and ensure it will not be lost.



COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Both Nessian O'Donoghue and Paul belong to Mungret Heritage Society which seeks to preserve, promote and present the rich heritage of Mungret in all its forms. Working in partnership with William Sheahan of Limerick Christian Centre, they are based in the former Mungret College which the Jesuits conducted between 1882 to 1974. Their efforts also have the support of Mungret College Past Pupils Union.

Mungret College, with its café, is the ideal location for a centre to present Mungret heritage. It will be aimed at three groups:

- Visitors to the Christian Centre
- Past pupils of Mungret College or their descendants
- Visitors interested in the heritage of the wider area.

William Sheahan has kindly donated a room near the café to serve the purposes of this project. Lacking any expertise in the area, Nessian and Paul have turned to the students from UL to convert this room into an informative and appealing heritage centre. They provide the students with guidelines and information. The outcome will be the result of their creativity, enthusiasm and skill.

STUDENTS



Ryan Cafaro: I'm a study abroad student from Southern Connecticut State University studying at the University of Limerick. I am a History major with a concentration in secondary education. Participating in the UL Practicum while in Ireland has allowed me to be immersed in the local history that I would not have gotten in a traditional classroom. Working with Mungret Heritage has been a wonderful experience and I am super proud of the work I have done with Morgan and Emily.



Morgan Tripamer: I'm an international student from Truman State University working on the Mungret Heritage project with UL Engage. As a History major, the ability to work directly with local history in a setting typically unavailable to me broadened the scope of my learning. Working with the Mungret community has given me invaluable work skills I will take with me for the rest of my life.



Emily Lowerr: I am a study abroad student from University of Minnesota Twin Cities studying environmental engineering. Having the opportunity to work together with an Irish community has been an eye opening experience. Not only have I been able to learn in an unorthodox environment, but I have been able to further immerse myself in Irish culture. All in all, the UL Practicum has definitely been a worthwhile experience and I would recommend it to anyone who asks.

PROJECT RATIONALE

The project started up with UL Engage in Spring 2017. The aim of Mungret Heritage Society was to create a room for visitors to learn about the history of Mungret and of the old Mungret college. Extremely passionate and knowledgeable about the Mungret area, Nessian, William and Paul laid out their vision for us. In the room, they wanted panels of Mungret history as well as three videos about Mungret, the college, and the Christian Learning Center that is now housed in the old college.

Our goals were to understand Mungret area, visit the college, discuss with Nessian, William and Paul about what they wanted for the area, create a plan, and execute as many tasks as possible. After visiting with Nessian several times, we began the work on the project. We decided upon and obtained the permission of Nessian to continue on with panels for the room on the left side that discuss the history of early Mungret. On the right side of the room, a timeline of Mungret College as well as important events in recent Mungret history will go up. Several videos regarding Mungret history, the Christian Learning Center that resides in the college now, and the history of the Parish need to be created. We also need to make brochures advertising the panels and the area of Mungret.

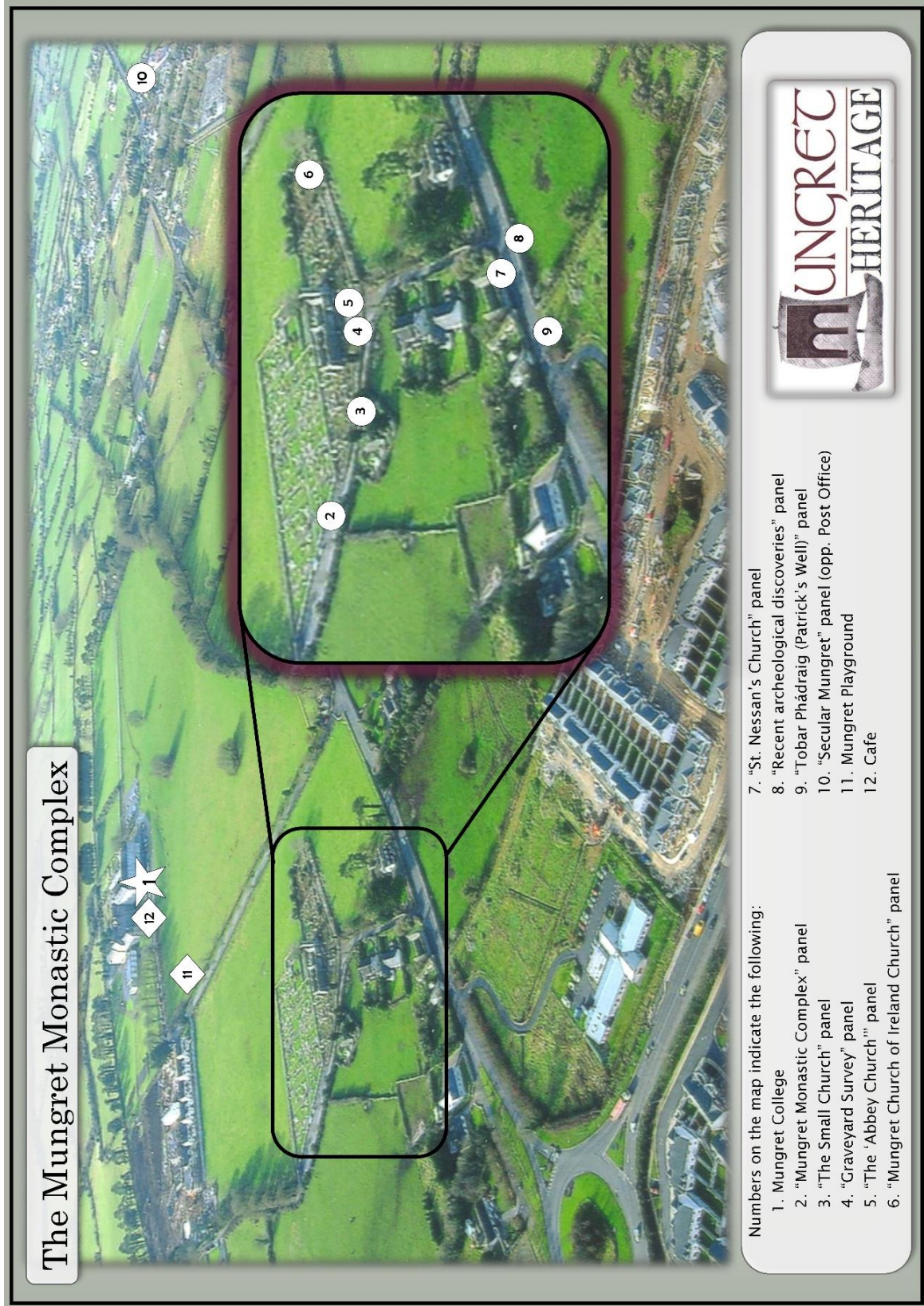
We quickly realized in order for the room to be a proper historical site, more work than we could accomplish in a semester needed to be done. We wrote a list of our ideas for the room and began working through the list.






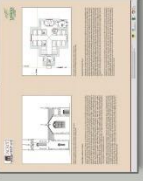



Completed Spring 2017:

- Brochure/Map of the interpretive panels (see back of book)
- Video the history of Mungret College: Made by Ian Feerick, History Masters student
- Text for the Three Panels: 4 feet by 5 feet
 - Mesolithic and Neolithic (3 feet by 5 feet)
 - Bronze age
 - Early medieval: Church and Graveyards of Mungret (printed) (see back of book)

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Repaint the meeting room (summer 2017?)
- Timeline to go on opposite wall (~1850's - present)
- William has a letter from a past pupil-perhaps incorporate that into something
- Videos: Christian Learning Center and Mungret Parish
- Use Anne Fitzgerald's (an artist who belongs to the church/ hangs out at the college) art
- Get the word out about Mungret
- Interview/testimonies from Dorothy, William, past pupils, etc.
- Electronic photo montage



1. Mungret College 	2. "Mungret Monastic Complex" panel 
3. "The Small Church" panel 	4. "Graveyard Survey" panel 
5. "The 'Abbey Church'" panel 	6. "Mungret Church of Ireland Church" panel 
7. "St Nessan's Church" panel 	8. "Recent archeological discoveries" panel 
9. "Tobar Phádraig (Patrick's Well)" panel 	10. "Secular Mungret" panel (opp. Post Office) 
11. Mungret Playground 	12. Café 

CONTACT US:

Mungret Heritage

Nessan O'Donoghue

Email: nessanmurroe@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/MungretHeritage

Limerick Christian Centre

Office : 353 61 303022

Email: lccmungret@gmail.com

NOW OPEN: The Cuppa Café



Join us in our new café on the first floor of Mungret College for tea, coffee, and pastries.

Map brochure created by Ryan Cafaro in partnership with:



**Mungret Heritage's
Interpretive Panels
at
The Mungret Monastic
Complex**

Medieval Mungret (400 - 1169 AD)

The name Mungret is derived from the old Irish *mong ghairid* which translates as 'short swamp' or morass, in reference to the marshy land around Mungret. The town of Mungret was located on the *Slighe Dhala* or *Slighe Dhala Meic Umhoir* which was the road connecting west Munster to Tara, the ancient seat of the High Kings of Ireland. An ancient abbey is believed to have been erected in Mungret in the fourth century, predating the coming of St. Patrick to Ireland. St. Nesson was appointed prior of the monastery in Mungret by St. Patrick in the fifth century.

Mungret Monastery

The monastery became a thriving centre of worship and learning up to the twelfth century at which stage the monastery went into decline owing to the reform of the Irish Church. At its peak the monastery accommodated monks, clerics, nuns, scholars, lay people, pilgrims and visitors. Around 1,500 monks lived in the settlement, worshipping in six churches. The monastery was raided by Viking warriors at various stages throughout the ninth century. The churches were damaged by fire in 1080, and the entire complex was destroyed in 1088 by Donal MacLoughlin the ruling Gaelic king of Ulster.

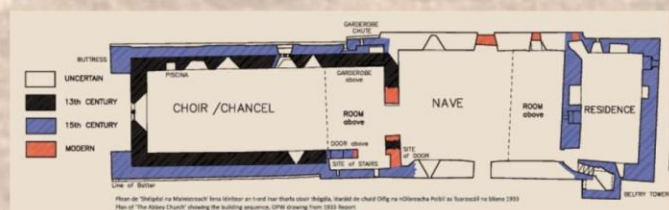


Mungret Abbey

The abbey was built between 1251 and 1272, and is the largest of the three churches on the monastic site. The abbey was used for Protestant worship and operated as a parish church until 1882.

St Nesson's Church and the Inner Sanctum

The ruins of two of the churches remain standing today. One of these churches is dedicated to St. Nesson who was also known as St. Nesson the Deacon or Nesson the Leper. The oldest and smallest church on the site lies south of St. Nesson's. Both structures have undergone renovation over the years. It is believed that the two churches may have formed the inner sanctum of the monastic complex. St. Nesson's feast day is 25 July, he died in 551.



The graveyards surrounding the churches are still in use today. The present day section is located near the left of the abbey ruin. The Jesuits who worked in Mungret College are buried in their own section. The oldest part of the graveyard surrounds Mungret Abbey. The oldest grave is from 1756.





Venue for Visitors Centre

Mungret Heritage Society Visitor's Room

Morgan Tripamer

I'm an international student from Truman State University working on the Mungret Heritage project with UL Engage. As a History major, the ability to work directly with local history in a setting typically unavailable to me broadened the scope of my learning. Working with the Mungret community has given me invaluable work skills I will take with me for the rest of my life.



Emily Lowerr

I am from the University of Minnesota Twin Cities studying Environmental Engineering. Having the opportunity to work with an Irish community has been an eye opening experience. Not only have I been able to learn in a non-traditional environment, I have been able to immerse myself in Irish culture. All in all, the UL Practicum has definitely been a worthwhile experience and I would recommend it to anyone who asks.



Ryan Cafaro

I am from Southern Connecticut State University. I major in History with a concentration in Secondary Education. Participating in the UL Practicum while in Ireland has allowed me to learn about the local history that I would not have gotten in a traditional classroom. Working with Mungret Heritage has been a wonderful experience and I am proud of the work I have done with Morgan and Emily.



We collaborated with Aoife Ashworth (masters' student), Ian Feerick (masters' student), Vincent O'Connell (UL History Department), and Nessian O'Donoghue (Mungret Heritage).

About the site:

Mungret College is the current location of Mungret Heritage and the Limerick Christian Way's school and church. The property also houses a play ground, a coffee shop, and a bookstore. Throughout Mungret several interpretive panels explain the history and importance of Mungret Abbey, St. Nessian's Church, and the graveyards.



About the project:

Our task was to create the foundations for a historical information room at Mungret College. The main aspects of the project included designing informational panels for the walls of the room and producing a map brochure of the interpretive panels that already exist at the site. We utilized information from online resources as well as an archeological assessment to create the content of the panels. The brochure contains images from Mungret Heritage.

Outcomes:

- Map Brochure of the existing Mungret interpretive panels
- Indoor interpretive panels:
 - ⇒ Design for Early Medieval: Church and Graveyards of Mungret panel
 - ⇒ Text for Mesolithic and Neolithic panel
 - ⇒ Text for Bronze Age panel
- Video of Mungret College history (10 minutes)



Recommendations:

- Repaint the meeting room
- Timelime to go on wall opposite the new panels (~1850's - present)
- Better layout of services (ie. bookshop, meeting rooms)
- New videos: Christian Learning Center and Mungret Parish
- Interview/ testimonies from Dorothy, William, past pupils, etc.
- Photo montages



References:

- <http://www.limerickleader.ie/news/home/205289/Bronze-Age-find-in-Mungret-.html>
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www.ul.ie/engage E-mail: ULEngage@ul.ie
Telephone: +353 61 202096