



coillte

GROW
SUSTAIN
DEVELOP

ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS 2005



management plans completed in 2005. This will greatly facilitate the planning of future plant production in nurseries. Progress is also being made in increasing the production potential of the most productive species - Sitka spruce - by producing plants from improved source material. Coillte also has a policy to selectively acquire productive immature plantations from private forest owners to replace the production potential of any forests sold.

Coillte also entered into farm forestry partnerships on a further 569 hectares of land in 2005 bringing the area of land in such partnerships to over 12,000 hectares.



CERTIFICATION

In May 2001, Coillte received Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification that its forests are well managed in accordance with strict social, environmental and economic criteria. This certificate is valid for five years from the date of issue and is monitored annually through surveillance audits, to demonstrate ongoing compliance with the Standard. A re-assessment audit for the next certificate period 2006-2011 was undertaken at the end of 2005 and the final audit report is awaited. Coillte remains fully committed to FSC certification, the practice of sustainable forest management, and continuous improvement in its forest management practices.



RECREATION

Coillte published a new Recreation Policy entitled Healthy Forests, Healthy Nation in 2005. The policy was launched by Ms. Mary Coughlan, TD, Minister for Agriculture and Food in September 2005.

In 2005, Coillte submitted proposals to Fáilte Ireland for funding under the National Development Plan (Tourism Support Measures) for a €3.3 million package of recreational developments across its estates. The programme will deliver over 30 projects including sustainable walking and hiking trails, a new recreation web site, an innovative walkers/cyclists welcome initiative and mountain bike facilities by the end of 2007. Fáilte Ireland approved the proposal in early 2006 and preparatory work is well advanced.

Coillte has initiated a dialogue with relevant Government Departments about how its recreation policy and facilities can contribute to sectoral objectives in areas such as health, tourism, rural development and sport. Coillte was actively involved in other national recreational initiatives including the Irish Sports Council National Trails Strategy Committee. In 2005, Coillte reviewed of forest based recreation, and Leave No Trace Ireland.

EU LIFE NATURE PROJECTS

Work progressed well during 2005 on Coillte's two EU-LIFE Nature bog restoration projects. The blanket bog project along the western seaboard has been very successful. The European Commission recently approved an extension to the project

which will see work undertaken on a further 276 hectares by the end of 2007.

Good progress was also made in our second bog restoration project that aims to restore raised bogs at 14 locations in the Midlands. This project commenced in 2004 and will run until 2008.

During 2005, Coillte received EU-LIFE Nature funding to restore and conserve 550 hectares of native woodland habitats in the West and Midlands that have priority status under the EU Habitats Directive. Four rare woodland habitat types are targeted for restoration. This project will run until 2009.

LABOUR RESOURCE UNIT

The Labour Resource Unit, established in 2004 to manage Coillte's industrial workforce more effectively, operated in 2005 in the North West, East and South East of the country. The unit was successful in its first year of operation with almost half of all industrial staff now managed by the unit. Labour efficiency improved by 13% in the principal operational areas with a resultant contract labour saving estimated at €0.47 million. This was achieved largely through improved work practices and more efficient deployment and utilisation of industrial staff. The unit also completed a major road fencing project for the National Roads Authority on the Gorey by-pass in Co. Wickford.



COILLTE ENTERPRISES

Coillte Enterprises manages a portfolio of businesses comprising:

- Coillte Forestry Services which provides planning, forest management and timber harvesting services to private land owners, and undertakes all of Coillte's planting programme
- Coillte Nurseries which supplies plants for all internal needs and for external fish and international markets
- Land Development which is responsible for adding value to the Group's land asset, and
- Enterprise Operations which manages a portfolio of businesses including Christmas Tree Farms, Wood Products, Tree Care Services, Training, and Leisure.

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PLAN
CONSERVE
MANAGE

SOCIAL & ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT 2004-05

Table 1 2004 and 2005 progress on ecological surveys, biodiversity features and deadwood

Element	Progress in 2004 and 2005
Manage 15% of estate with nature conservation as primary management objective	Seven Ecological surveys completed in 2004 and four in 2005. Survey of Cobble estate now complete. Findings of surveys collated and analysed. Management plans completed for 61% of areas identified in surveys. Implementation of work outlined in management plans commenced. 18,995 biodiversity features recorded by end of 2005. Future validation of data may adjust figure.
Biodiversity features and deadwood	Cumulative standing deadwood at the end of 2005 was 128,113 trees (119% of target) and fallen deadwood was 138,254 trees (112.8% of target). Total area surveyed for deadwood was 22,185 hectares or 4.9% of Cobble's estate.



collected and make it more accessible to staff so that it can be used on a daily basis in forest management decision making and for monitoring and reporting on biodiversity areas within Cobble.

Progress on other key elements of Cobble's Nature Conservation Strategy is presented in Table 1.

BOGS BEING RESTORED

In 2004, Cobble received funding from the EU LIFE-Nature Programme to restore 511 hectares of raised bog habitat on 14 Midland sites in counties



Galway, Roscommon, Longford, Wick, Wexford, Meath, Cavan and Louth. The peatlands of the Irish Midlands are among the most important raised bog systems remaining in Europe, and it is estimated that Ireland contains 50% of the intact, uncut raised bog systems in Europe. All 14 sites are candidate Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) under the EU Habitats Directive.

This project will run until 2008, and will address the main ecological threats that affect raised bog habitats such as removal of 450 hectares of

plantation forest blocking forestry drains to raise water levels and restore the hydrological balance of the peatland areas, removal of naturally-regenerated trees from adjacent areas of open, unplanted bog, permanent protection of vulnerable raised bog sites against fire, and consultations to secure control of turbarry turf cutting rights.

By the end of 2005, progress was made in relation to the raising of water levels on the bogs by harvesting timber on 13 of the 14 sites, installing drains on some sites, and removing of some self-staked trees from the open bog down. Water level and vegetation monitoring was also conducted on all sites during 2005. Work commenced on the cutting of fire lines and fencing to protect the project sites from fire and trespassing animals.

Work continued during 2004 and 2005 on the EU LIFE Banded Bog project, which began in 2002. By the end of 2005, 95% of the tree

Site Name	Main Priority Habitat Type	County	Area (ha)
Cobble	Woodland associated with Insectivore pavement	Galway/ Mayo	292.9
Allyshilly	Woodland associated with Insectivore pavement	Clare	67.1
Castlegar	Woodland associated with Insectivore pavement	Galway	32.8
Redwood	Alfwood woodland	Sligo	24.0
Darrow	Alfwood woodland	Laois	95.2
Carracor	Alfwood woodland	Offaly	17.1
Lunaghrach	Tew woodland	Limerick	6.9
Carra Park	Tew woodland	Tipperary	9.0
Aghyragh	Bog woodland	Cavan	5.8
			\$50.8

Table 2 Project sites in Galway/EU LIFE-Nature Woodland habitat restoration project

removal planned for these bogs was completed. Drain blocking has been completed on seven of the 14 sites. This project was originally scheduled for completion by the end of 2006. However, the European Commission has recently approved the restoration of a further 116 hectares of blanket bog which will extend this project to the end of 2007.

FUNDING RECEIVED FOR RESTORATION OF WOODLANDS OF HIGH CONSERVATION VALUE

At the end of 2005, Cobble received funding under the EU LIFE Nature Programme for the restoration and conservation of over 550 hectares of native woodland habitats in the West and Midlands that are recognised under the EU Habitats Directive as being extremely rare and reduced in their distribution, not just in Ireland but across the EU. Because of their extreme rarity, these woodland habitats are given 'priority' status under the EU Habitats Directive. There

are nine sites included in this project, in which four rare woodland habitats are targeted for restoration (Table 2). The project will implement practical conservation measures, including removal of exotic species (primarily conifer and non-native broadleaf tree species) and invasive exotic shrubs.

Control of natural regeneration of invasive exotic species, blocking drains to restore flood conditions in alfwood woodland, and extension of new woodland sites through natural regeneration and planting of new. The project commenced on 1st January 2006 and will run until 31st December 2009.



Courses & Activities

2005

The Organic Centre



Atlantic Organics

Atlantic Organics is a new joint venture enterprise company launched by the Organic Centre, Horn West Organic Co-Op and Lehm Organic Farmen Co-Op.

It is the result of four years intensive development work undertaken in conjunction with the Western Development Commission, in many other respects are:

- To significantly increase the level of production and improve the quality of organic produce to meet the market demand.
- Develop marketing initiatives to increase the sales of organic food products.
- Increase the level of information, advice and training in the organic sector.

For further information contact 071 855-0314.

Restoring Active Blanket Bog in Bryland

A nature conservation project funded by EU DG-Environment and Celtic Treasures (the Irish Forestry Board) under the EU LIFE-Nature Programme.

This project is managed by Celtic Treasures and focuses on the restoration of 14 blanket bog areas within the EU Noses 2000 network of protected sites. Restoration techniques include fencing to gain control of grazers, removal of trees to restore open habitat conditions, blocking drains to subside the bogs and raising community awareness about the project. For further information contact the following:

Public awareness: Caroline.white@coillte.ie
Project Manager: Nevis.donohue@coillte.ie

Widdlers Worm Farm
Arbuckle, County Wick
Dromader, New Quay
Co. Leitrim, T.T. 071 9114440
Wicklow, Tullaghan, 071 9114440

Sligo LETS
Garry Mc Evoy
5th Ct, Unit 4
071 91 40009
www.co.uk/lets/sligo/lets
Business Centre
Mother Yard.
email: lets@sligo.lets.com
Sligo
Community Trading

SEA NYMPH
(Galway Bay Marine) Ltd,
Mountain Road, Moycullen,
Co. Galway
Phone/Fax 091-556239
email: phill@sea-nymph-ireland.com

Willowbrook Park
Killybranks, Ballyphofoerreen
Co Roscommon
Phone 094 9861307
E-mail: info@willowbrookpark.com
Web: www.willowbrookpark.com

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Phone/Fax 091-556239
email: phill@sea-nymph-ireland.com

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NORTH WEST Organic Guide 2004-2005



Koo, Hackett, Co.Crews

Telephone:
Garden Design, Consult and Landscaping Services

087 252279

Polytunnels

Organic growing, gardening, polytunnelling

Contact:
Telephone:
Email:

Chris & David
087 418733/066 3108395
silkac@email.com

Peter Schaefer
Tollerncarden
Tisbury
Co. Sligo

Contact:
Tel/Fax:
Website:
Email:

Peter Schaefer
071 91 85595
www.naturalenergy.fsnetserver.com
natural.energy@connectfr.ie

Consultation on renewable energy and energy conservation.

The Green Man

Contact:
Tel:

Kevin
0044 (0)7765 898245

Design, construction, maintenance by qualified gardener. Free advisory service. Some wall building, willow arbours and summer houses.

Environment and Community

ENFO
17 St Andrew Street
Dublin 2

Telephone:
Fax:
Website:
Email:

01 888 3910/888 3913
01 888 2946
www.enfo.ie
info@enfo.ie

Ireland's public environmental and sustainable development information service. Provides excellent information, especially products aimed at school environmental projects. Website includes contact details for extensive range of environmental NGOs.
(NOTE: For this reason, we have refrained from reproducing many useful contact details for a variety of organisations in this Guide. Please refer to ENFO website instead)

Reinventing Active Blanket Bug in Ireland

Contact:
Telephone:
Website:
Email:

Caroline White
071 9163663
www.inhibitsinvasionproject.ie
Caroline.white@coll.ie

This nature conservation project jointly funded by EU DG-Environment and Celtic Trusts (The Irish Forestry Board) under the EU LIFE-Nature Programme is currently making good progress. Reintroduction work changes from tree removal, fencing, blocking drains, and removal of self-seeding trees from blanket bog habitat.

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THE MAGAZINE OF COILLTE TEORANTA



VOLUME 17 NUMBER 2 2005

Native Hedgerow Project at Bog of Allen Nature Centre

During National Tree Week 2005, Coillte sponsored the planting by the Irish Peatland Conservation Council (IPCC) of a native hedgerow at the Bog of Allen Nature Centre in Lullymore, Co. Kildare.

On 12th March, the IPCC organised a Volunteer Day, and though the weather was quite wet during the week, the volunteers were greeted by bright sunshine and plenty of shovels on Saturday morning! The enthusiasm and energy of the volunteers who helped on the day was greatly appreciated and was the only reason that the hedgerow got finished that afternoon.

George Hipwell, Forest Manager, attended on behalf of Coillte and presented a cheque for €5,000, along with planting a few trees.

The hedgerow was planted on the southern boundary of a small area of birch woodland, which is used by many garden birds and also by IPCC for education programmes on woodland invertebrates. The native hedgerow will improve the quality of the woodland by providing shelter and food for many more insects and birds. It may also serve as a demonstration to show people how they can easily plant a native hedgerow even in a small area.

This was part of an ongoing project of habitat creation at the centre, which has already included freshwater ponds and a bog full of carnivorous plants. The planting of a native hedgerow is part of a project by the IPCC to develop a wildlife-friendly nature centre, which supports many different habitats.



Blanket bog restoration continues...

Information Day in Sessuegilroy

On May 31st 2005, an information day was held at one of our blanket bog sites, Sessuegilroy, Co. Sligo. This was held to further outline the objectives and restoration methodologies used on our project. A cross section of people attended, including staff from Coillte, National Parks & Wildlife, and the Environmental Section of the Institute of Technology, Sligo. The day began with a brief indoor session outlining the background, objectives and vegetation monitoring progress to date. In the afternoon the group visited a site, where the site manager, Martin Ruane outlined the various restoration techniques used and the group saw the great progress which is being made here. Further information days will be planned before the end of the Summer.

Visit to new IPCC HQ

On 12th May, a number of staff from the blanket bog restoration project visited the new Irish Peatland Conservation Council's Headquarters

in Lullymore, Rathangan, Co. Kildare. Dr. Catherine O'Connell took the group on a tour of the centre and discussions took place around their plans for the place and exchange of information about our continued work on our blanket bog restoration project and particularly regarding how we built our boardwalks. After lunch the group had a short course on composting which was found to be very useful by all.



Project Advisory Panel Meeting

A large group from various organisations came together on a blanket bog project advisory panel day held in Mulranny, Co. Mayo on June 29th 2005. They were, John Wilson, National Parks & Wildlife; Michael

McCarthy, Environment Section, Forest Service; Noel Foley, Environment Section, Forest Service; Michael Walsh, Teagasc; Nicky Stafford, Forest Service; Conor Burns, Marble Arch Caves; Tom Kavanagh, Forest Service and Donal Daly, Geological Service. This day was also attended by the project management group of which the following are members, George McCarthy, Chairman; Kevin Donnellan, Project Mgr; Caroline White, PR/Project Administration; Aileen O'Sullivan, Company Ecologist; Ciara Burke, Project Accountant; Caitriona Douglas, Peatland Ecologist, National Parks & Wildlife and Philip Murphy, EU Affairs, Coillte.

This panel serves to advise the project management group, as required, on specific issues which they feel are worthwhile to the project. On our day in Mulranny the group visited the project's Bellaveeny site, where a lot of valuable discussion took place about issues such as characterising sites, influence of groundwater, depth of peat, climate, altitude and rainfall data.

Caroline White
PR/Project Administration



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Plan du site

EUROSITE

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GREEN DAYS

Green Days / Journées Vertes



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what are green days?

natura 2000

Title / Titre: Information Day/Progress Update

Date: 30/06/2005
Place / Lieu: Bellaveeny Blanket Bog Restoration Site, Co. Mayo
Country / Pays: IRL
Thema / Thème: 0
Category / Catégorie: 0
Organizer / Organisateur: Caroline White
Tel: 00353719162663
Fax: 00353719143014
email: caroline.white@collite.ie
Web address / Site web: <http://irishbogrestorationproject.ie>

Comments on the event /
Descriptif de l'évènement:

It is planned that our next project advisory panel meeting, will be utilised the forum of a field day to advise the panel members of the progress on c blanket bog restoration project - LIFE02/NAT/IRL/8490, and to promote t objectives of Natura 2000. Because the members of our project advisory panel are from wide and varied backgrounds, it was felt that this would b ideal opportunity to promote Natura 2000. Posters, etc. from the toolkit v be distributed on the day.

Caroline White - Public Relations - Blanket Bog Restoration Proj

For further information,
please contact (name) /
Pour de plus amples
Informations, merci de
contacter (nom):

For further information,
please contact (email) /
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Informations, merci de
contacter (email):

caroline.white@collite.ie

THE LOCAL PLANET

THE PAPER FOR SUSTAINABLE LIVING
MAY - OCTOBER 2005
The Local Planet | Issue 2 | £2.50 | £1.60

CHILDREN IN THE MIST OF CONSUMER FOOD WAR



Wendy Leary, WMA, Dundee

When it comes to food choices, parents and grandparents often find themselves in a bit of a bind. On the one hand, they want to ensure their children are getting the best nutrition, while on the other hand, they want to ensure they are getting the best value for money. The problem is that the two often don't go hand in hand. For example, the most nutritious food is often the most expensive. This is why many parents find themselves in a bit of a bind when it comes to food choices. They have to choose between what is good for their child's health and what is good for their wallet. This is a tough choice to make, especially when it comes to children's food. Parents often find themselves in a bit of a bind when it comes to food choices. They have to choose between what is good for their child's health and what is good for their wallet. This is a tough choice to make, especially when it comes to children's food.



**ARE ARNOLD
SCHWARZENEGGER'S
HYDROGEN PLANS
REALISTIC?**

By the 21st century, the world's population is expected to reach 8 billion. This means that we will need to find ways to produce enough food to feed everyone. One of the most promising ways to do this is through hydrogen energy. Hydrogen is a clean-burning fuel that can be used to power cars, trucks, and even homes. It is also a renewable energy source, as it can be produced from water and electricity. However, there are several challenges that need to be overcome before hydrogen can be used as a widespread energy source. These include the high cost of production and the need for a safe and efficient way to store and transport it. Despite these challenges, many people believe that hydrogen energy has the potential to revolutionize the way we produce and use energy.

FUELLING THE FUTURE

With the world's population expected to reach 8 billion by the year 2050, the need for sustainable energy sources is more pressing than ever. One of the most promising sources is hydrogen. Hydrogen is a clean-burning fuel that can be used to power cars, trucks, and even homes. It is also a renewable energy source, as it can be produced from water and electricity. However, there are several challenges that need to be overcome before hydrogen can be used as a widespread energy source. These include the high cost of production and the need for a safe and efficient way to store and transport it. Despite these challenges, many people believe that hydrogen energy has the potential to revolutionize the way we produce and use energy.

MYOTO FOR BIKERS
P.18

CONTENT CATEGORIES

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BIODIVERSITY

THE RESTORATION OF BLANKET BOG IN IRELAND

Blanket bog restoration is a complex and costly process that aims to restore the natural habitat of blanket bogs in Ireland. These bogs are important for biodiversity and provide a unique habitat for many rare plant and animal species. The restoration process involves peat cutting, which is a traditional practice that was used to manage the bog. However, this practice has been largely abandoned in recent years, leading to the degradation of many blanket bogs. The restoration process aims to reverse this damage by restoring the peat cutting cycle and allowing the bog to regenerate naturally. This is a long and difficult process, but it is essential for the conservation of Ireland's natural heritage.



Aerial and ground-level views of blanket bog at Cahinchy, Co. Mayo.



Aerial view of bog field at Cahinchy, Co. Mayo.

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The Cost of Employment Can we afford to lose traditional jobs and skills?

Employment is a key factor in determining the standard of living in any country. However, the cost of employment is often overlooked. This cost includes the expenses of hiring and training employees, as well as the cost of providing them with benefits and a safe working environment. These costs can be significant, especially for small businesses. In addition, the loss of traditional jobs and skills can have a negative impact on the economy and the environment. As technology advances, many traditional jobs are being replaced by automated processes. This can lead to a loss of valuable skills and knowledge, which can have a long-term impact on the economy. It is important to consider the costs of employment and the impact of job loss when making decisions about the future of the economy.



Aerial view of bog field at Cahinchy, Co. Mayo.

Blanket bog restoration is a complex and costly process that aims to restore the natural habitat of blanket bogs in Ireland. These bogs are important for biodiversity and provide a unique habitat for many rare plant and animal species. The restoration process involves peat cutting, which is a traditional practice that was used to manage the bog. However, this practice has been largely abandoned in recent years, leading to the degradation of many blanket bogs. The restoration process aims to reverse this damage by restoring the peat cutting cycle and allowing the bog to regenerate naturally. This is a long and difficult process, but it is essential for the conservation of Ireland's natural heritage.

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THE MAGAZINE OF COILLTE TEORANTA



VOLUME 17 NUMBER 3 2005

A Day in the Life of Seamus O'Connor – "Life" in Forestry

I am now in my 42nd year in forestry and as I look back over the years, I wonder where they have gone.

It only seems like last year since I commenced working at County Carlow in Co. Wick, the forestry training course at that time. It was October 1963 that I arrived in Enniscorthy. Most of the group of thirty-two had already been there before me. It took a bit of getting used to living, eating and working with all the other guys. We were up at 8 a.m. and lights out at 10 p.m. Our working during the day at various forest operations. We then moved to St. John's Abbey in Co. Wicklow after year one. Conditions were more relaxed here. We were allowed our town at weekends, we played football, hurling and soccer and organized leagues for ourselves. We played in the Wicklow Championship as well, were dancing to the carols in Athlon on Saturday nights. A lot of relationships built up with the lovely girls around Athlon over the two years spent there, breaking the monotony of forestry!

The spirit of camaraderie which grew over the three years we spent together has lasted all these years. A 40th anniversary get together was organized two years ago in

Woodstock. Most of the thirty

fell came back to renew old acquaintances. It was great to meet the lads after 40 years even though I had had gone to other occupations during the intervening years. A lot of our group has passed away. Pat McAuliffe and Jim Kilduff. RIP.

My first appointment as an assistant forester was at Salsburgh, Co. Leitrim. I got on well with the

forester-in-charge John Harrin, he showed me the ropes and what forestry was about. The work involved establishment, planting, tending, pruning and road making. Wood came that I was being transferred to Clonsilla, I was surprised and delighted. Flying with Mayo at the time he'd told I have not hit Mayo since.

I then started in "Taugh Cant" forest. It was a much more mature forest compared to what I had worked in before. Here the work involved thinning and clearing. My new boss was Paddy Cullen, Shandy afterwards Paddy got a transfer to Leath and John Tyle replaced him. John resided in a new house which had been built in Ballymore. In the course of thinning other

equipment by tractor and mule to Ballymore, the driver in the dell, once, unloaded in the driver's employment cards (important documents then) had blown away one by one. There was some time spent searching slats, hedges, and along the roads! To John's relief most of the cards were retrieved.

I then moved to Fardoul on a temporary transfer to help out Donal Murphy. Fardoul was regarded as one of the elite forests in the county at the time as it was producing a lot of commercial timber for sawmills. It also had a nursery with up to fifty men working there full time.

My next move in 1969 was to Clonsilla as Deputy Forester. As a deputy, you could complete forestry in-charge duties when the need arose. Clonsilla was a research forest then, where a lot of work was carried out on Blasket Bog to find the best species and sowing material. Joe Freeman was the man in charge then. On how times have changed! All those Blasket Bog sites are now contained under Special Areas of Conservation. P.J. Lyons replaced Joe Freeman as the man in charge and set out to get himself a proper office in Ballymore (the office in



Clonsilla then was a hut). After many phone calls and letter writing he had no success. One day, he sent a letter to Neil O'Connell, District Inspector. He wanted a hut for the envelope and asked me to give him one. The sheets then were produced and in damp conditions they had to be dried together. I was trying to entice one from the top when P.J. said "Give me the lot". Well that the whole lot was stuck on the envelope to make his point. It must have worked as we had an office in Ballymore fairly soon after that complete with phone and all, how enjoyable we felt there!

I got married to Mary Regina born Ballyvaurens in 1971 and I moved to live in Crossroads travelling to Clonsilla each day. In 1975 a vacancy came up for a forester in charge in Ballyvaurens. There was a new forest residence there and it was done to the sea so we decided to move. We had one child then, Suzanne born in Crossroads in 1972. We only managed to stay for a few years but we are still here! We settled in and got involved in the community. Forgal will born in 1976 and Paul was born in 1981. They had their friends and were involved in athletics and football.

To make my job easier, I was given a number of assistants. Joe Wylie was first to come, then Douie Crowley, Pat Kearney, Pat Donnellan and T.J. Greene. T.J. is still involved with the harvesting team in the District. U.J. a Donegal man, married a Mayo lady, Maura Egan from Ballyvaurens.

My interests outside of work were sport and in particular football. I was lucky enough to have been selected on the Mayo A team, U21 and Senior teams down through the years. Winning a Connacht Senior medal, U21 and A team medals were great rewards. Playing with Connacht along with other great players of that era, playing for Mayo against the Aussies in 1987, being selected on the 1987 Gaelic Weekly All Stars at left full back were all other great highlights. And it all started with my home club, Meale in the early 1960s, and I played with many other Mayo clubs as I moved around the county with my job. My interest has continued and I am still involved, as Chairman of the Ballyvaurens Club which I really enjoy!

LIFE projects are big now, now, and I am involved in one. "Tensions Active Ballyvaurens Bog in Ireland". This is a partly

funded project between Co. Wick and DC Environment. It is all in aid of preserving our Blasket Bog which everyone says is getting very scarce. Come to North Mayo and you would certainly not think that! This work involves taking of prescriptions, bloodling them with plastic to show down water flow, and waiting for the vegetation to return. I have four such sites, and I do all this work for the love of biodiversity! We have gone to visit other sites in foreign lands who have the projects too. I went on a trip to Scotland last year. I had never been there before – had to go by boat as I don't fly. It was very enjoyable and deeply enjoyed by Caiden when George from other counties visit our sites and we exchange views and ideas and we are also a kind of "traveling bureau". Caiden and Neil from Scotland are going the tour in November. Congratulations! They both met on a site in North Mayo.

The biggest challenge I have met in my career is the COMA/NTFR, but I am making steady progress. I must say a has been a great and enjoyable career and I would recommend it to anyone who is interested. "Life".



National Ploughing Championships

27th-29th September 2005

The 76th annual Ploughing Championships took place in Co. Cork during the last week in September.

About 150,000 people attended the event, which took place over three days at a 400-acre farm in Mogeely.

President Mary McAleese opened the event, while the Taoiseach and politicians from all the main parties also attended.

Coillte had a large exhibition with information about Farm Forestry Services, Recreation, Nurseries, the LIFE projects, Griffner, SmartPly and Training. The Tree Giveaway was as popular as previous years with over 3,000 trees distributed to attendees over the three days. Many comments were made over the airwaves about the attendees walking around the site with their free trees, so it was a great PR exercise for Coillte.

Public Relations would like to thank everyone who assisted at the show, especially Pat Walshe from the Midleton Office and Tony Collins of Nurseries, who did trojan work to have the exhibition ready on time and both

were of great assistance to myself. Lar Roche was also of great assistance making sure the stand was presentable at the start of every day.

Each unit was manned by various staff members and managers, including Michael Davoren, Pat Peters and Eugene Doyle, who were kept very busy and on their feet with the interested attendees.

There was also a large interest in the Griffner Coillte Houses so hopefully some business will develop as a result of all the hard work.

Various politicians visited our stand including Minister John Browne who arrived with Denis Byrne from the Dept. of Agriculture. Both showed a great interest in our efforts and despite the muddy conditions outside, the Coillte stand proved a very popular spot with crowds coming to see us everyday.

Well done to all involved and thanks again to everyone for all their help in making this yet another successful Ploughing event for Coillte.

Gráinne Hogan
Public Relations



Denis Byrne, Dept of Agriculture & Food; Pat Peters, Coillte Nurseries; Minister John Browne; Michael Davoren, Coillte Farm Forestry



Seamus Duignan - Recreation



John Watson - Griffner Coillte



Caroline White - LIFE Project



Coillte sponsored a mobile cart for disabled people