

*Tipperary Regional Youth Service has had a great 2009.* In a world of change, we have continued to put young people and their communities to the front of everything that we do, and this is reflected in the range and depth of activities that we delivered throughout the year. Constantly reflecting on what we are doing, asking our members, volunteers and communities to feed back to us their needs and requirements, and generally having an attitude of learning, hard work, and fun can be seen through the successes that we have enjoyed – from big regional events right down to our group work and one to one programmes.

Looking back on the challenges that we have faced in 2009, with ever tightening budgets, changing national policies, and increasing local demand on us, and on other community and voluntary based services, I feel confident that TRYs has the capacity and commitment to continue to dig deep and be a real, relevant part of people's lives. Part of that relevance for us is creating awareness of what we do, and the Board of Tipperary Regional Youth Service has been conscious that for TRYs to be successful, the organisation must promote what it does; not only in terms of our activities and events, but also in terms of highlighting youth work as a professional and important service that must be retained and supported going forward. Our youth workers, both paid and voluntary are trained, confident professionals, and the work that we do is important in the lives of our young people. In 2009, we have continued to work through thorough policies and procedures, and aim to further develop our standards throughout the coming year.

The organisation has placed a strong emphasis on being part of an integrated approach to community work in the region, proactively involving ourselves in a range of collaborations and partnerships in North and South Tipperary and East Limerick. Not only does this approach, which is highlighted in our Strategic Plan, place youth work at the centre of rural, community and social inclusion activities, but it also makes use of the other resources that are available to our towns and villages.

*Luke Murtagh*  
*Chairman*



*Looking back on 2009 the one thing that strikes me most is how lucky we were with the weather!* A surprising thing to say, you might think, but last year saw us hold our Junior Fun Day, many of

our summer events, and our YIPPE Youth Festival on some of the only good days of the year, weather wise. Sunshine or rain, however, I think that we can safely say that the effort we have put into holding regional and community events has showcased how important it is to have positive, youth centred activities which the whole community can get involved in.

The term 'youth centred' leads me on to another highlight for 2009 – the final development of Tipperary Youth Centre, the Three Drives Youth House, Cashel Youth Centre, Littleton Community House, and Cafe Chillax, all of which underwent various developments, from facelifts to complete overhauls. In our Strategic Plan, one of our key actions is to ensure safe, comfortable, fun spaces for young people, and this action is reflected in the focus on infrastructural development in 2009.

*Cora Horgan*  
*Chief Executive*



*Hello, my name is Neil Hewitt, and I would like to welcome you to the Tipperary Regional Youth Service Annual Report for 2009.* I have been a member of the Thurles Youth Project for the last couple of years, and this year, I successfully made it onto the Youth Café Committee. I also completed the Future Leader Induction Programme (FLIP training) and, as a result of this, I volunteered with the Thurles Youth Project doing the Summer Camp, the Homework Club and other junior groups and activities in Thurles. I am also involved in Comhairle na nÓg, and was elected to Dáil na nÓg. I found this to be a very empowering experience as I feel I have been able to give youth a voice.

All of these experiences have been very beneficial and enjoyable. They have helped me develop both personally and socially. I am much more confident as a facilitator and as a person through my involvement with TRYs. As a result of this, after my Leaving Cert, I intend to pursue Youth Work as a career. I hope you enjoy this year's Annual Report.

*Neil*





tipperary regional youth service

## Round Up '09

2009 was crazy busy with every month bringing new activities both within the clubs and projects, as well as regional and community based activities. The following gives a sample of our goings on:

### January

- Dail na nOg Delegate training for North and South Tipperary
- 20 Rural clubs re-affiliated to TRY5
- FLIP training was held for junior leaders from Templemore, Thurles and Cashel

### February

- The Regional Finals of the YWI Variety Show was hosted by Tipperary Regional Youth Service, held in Oola, with Templemore and Tipperary Youth Projects and Cappamore and Cloughjordan Youth Clubs taking part.
- We held our Junior and Senior Basketball Blitz in Rockwell, with Templemore winning the Senior Blitz and Scallagheen Youth Club winning the Junior Blitz.
- 6 TRY5 representatives attended Dail na nOg in Croke Park.

### March

- We took part in parades in Cashel, Tipperary Town, Templemore (where we came second) and Thurles.
- TRY5 got through to the voting stage for the AIB Better Ireland Awards in Templemore, Thurles and Tipperary Town - we didn't win, even with all the texting that went on!
- Yet again we had an extremely successful Junior Variety show, filling the Excel Theatre to capacity, and showcasing some great new talent.

### April

- Thurles and Cashel Projects attended the YWI Regional Games in UL – Cashel got through to the nationals in the Hip Hop Category yet again!
- Tipperary Town Manic Fantastic Youth Theatre kicked off auditions and rehearsals for two productions later in the summer.
- TRY5 AGM and Volunteer Awards were hosted by Cashel Youth Project at the end of the month.
- The Certificate in Community Addiction Studies with URRUS saw over 20 community members qualifying in North Tipperary.

### May

- The lease was finalised on the Youth and Community House in Littleton
- The Community Addiction Studies Course in Tipperary Town, in association with the HSE and WIT finished up.

- Our Junior Funday took place in Templemore with over 200 young people and adults attending for a great time in the town park.
- Cashel Youth Committee and ALZA volunteers took to their brushes to give the Cafe a face lift

### June

- TAR attended the All Ireland Camping Trip for Diversion projects yet again – this time bringing the girls along for a great two day trip.
- More FLIPpers were trained up this month in preparation for the Summer Camps.
- Open nights on 3<sup>rd</sup> Level Grants were held by the Youth Information Project.
- The Film Group, which comprises of young people from Templemore, Cashel and Cappamore had their initial meeting in June.

### July

- A month long of summer camps were organised - there were 4 in total, in Cashel Templemore, Thurles and Tipperary.
- Jam in the Plan – a new Tipperary Town Initiative to encourage community music, took place in July.
- The first Coffee Morning Day took place in the Littleton Community House.
- TRY5 worked with St Michael's Resident's Association in Tipp Town to run a Fun Afternoon.
- Thurles Estates Soccer Tournament was organised by TRY5 and the Residents Groups in the run up to the Thurles Fun Day.
- YWI National Games were attended by the Cashel Hip Hop group – we didn't win, but had a great day!
- Trappatoni came to Tipp to a civic welcome – in which TRY5 did our part to make him feel at home!

### August

- The Tipperary Street Soccer league saw a week of 95 young soccer players get involved every night for a week in Tipperary Town.
- Thurles Funday saw 300 young people and their families have a great time at this newly reinstated event, run in association with the Resident's Groups in the town.
- Littleton Funday had 50 young people and their families in attendance.
- TRY5 and Knockanrawley Resource Centre hosted the HSE South Tipperary Fun Day in Tipperary Town.
- MTDI delivered Publican's Packs to all pubs in the area to coincide with the Leaving Cert Results.

- August again saw a group of TRY5 members heading to Alton Towers for a long and enjoyable 24 hours.



### September

- Work started on the Cashel Building in September
- The North Tipperary CASC course kicked off in Nenagh again this year, with 20 participants
- The second YIIPPE festival took place in September and was a great mixture of fun, fireworks and (I can't think of another word beginning with F!!!)
- The Clubs all started back, as did groups and programmes on hold for the summer madness.
- We finally moved back into the Tipperary Youth Centre in Bank Place – many thanks to the Enterprise Centre in Tipperary Town for minding us for the best part of a year!
- UCC's Diploma in Youth and Community Studies, jointly supported by TRY5 and Knockanrawley, started in Tipperary Town.

### October

- The Cashel Youth Centre was finally completed with a great new dance space available for our talented members!
- The Oola Halloween event saw another great night held.
- Templemore outdid themselves this year with their Haunted House – well done Junior Leaders!
- Harm Reduction Training and Child Protection Training were delivered by the HSE for TRY5.
- The Pilot Local Options Training Programme from FAS and Rapid was granted to TRY5 with Donal Kelly coming on board with us to run the Programme in Tipperary Town.

### November

- North and South Tipperary Comhairle na nOg and Limerick Comhairle na nOg all took place.

- The new LOTP saw 25 young people aged between 18 and 25 starting a combined training and work experience programme
- Work was finally completed on the Three Drives Community House, and on the Thurles Cafe Chillax

### December

- The Christmas Card Competition final was held in Cashel.
- The Senior Variety Show in Cashel saw 150 young people take to the stage
- Our second Christmas Craft Fair took place in the Bank Place Youth Centre.

### Spotlight: FLIP

Young people who are senior members of a project or club who have shown good leadership skills are nominated by their leaders to attend FLIP (Future Leader Induction Programme) training. This is a residential training programme which is held over 2 days usually during school holidays. After the FLIP training the young people will be able to assist their leaders while working with junior groups or at special events. In 2009, FLIP training was run twice; once in January and once in June. Both of these training sessions were held in Waterford Youth Service residential building in Woodstown, Co. Waterford. There were 20 young people in attendance at both training sessions. During the training in June the young people got to take full advantage of the venues surroundings and the beautiful weather through walks on the beach and paddling in the sea. All the young people who attended the training received certification and during the evaluation the young people said they enjoyed the training and the overall experience. Congratulations to all the young people who participated in FLIP training in 2009.



**Cashel Neighbourhood Youth Project** is based in Hogan Square, Cashel and is run by the Community Youth Worker Catherine Doyle with support from 1 CE and 1 Links worker provided through FAS. The project currently works with approximately 110 young people on a weekly basis. The aim of the project is to engage with young people between the ages of 8 – 18 in order to provide opportunities for personal development, responsibility and integration with both their peers and their community, through voluntary participation. .

**Objectives:**

- To work with young people between the ages of 8 – 18 in order to provide opportunities for personal development, responsibility and integration with both their peers and their community, and to address at risk behaviours.
- To provide young people with opportunities for new experiences such as participation in Youth Exchange.
- To provide young people with services and facilities responsive to their identified needs.

**Highlights 2009**

- A group of 6 young people from a senior girls group participated in the regional Youth Work Ireland games under the hip hop dance category in UL in Limerick in April 2009. Out of this the group qualified to go on to the finals in July; unfortunately they were unsuccessful at this stage but the group enjoyed preparing for and taking part in the event.



- 26 members of the project participated in the St. Patrick's Day Parade and they created 3 giant snakes and a giant St. Patrick as part of their entry.
- The 2009 AGM and Volunteer awards were held in the Cashel Neighbourhood Youth Project. This event was run by the Café committee who also made all the food for the event.
- The newly renovated upstairs section of the building was launched in October, it was

officially opened by local young celebrity 18 year old Magician Dara McGrath who also provided plenty of entertainment for the guests on the day.

- Trips: 16 senior members of the project joined with members of the Templemore Youth Project to go on a trip to Alton Towers in England during the summer, a group of 6<sup>th</sup> class members who completed a transition programme went on a trip to Trabolgan in July and 25 senior members went to Cork ice-skating and Christmas shopping as part of their Christmas trip in December.



- Early School Leavers group: A group for Early School leavers was run in 2009 over 10 weeks and we had 5 young people who fully participated in the programme. Out of the 5 young people who participated in the early school leaver group 4 re-entered into formal education.
- Summer Camp: 92 young people attended the summer camp in 2009 which was held in the Cashel rugby club. The activities included arts and crafts, treasure hunt, sports day, magic show, face-painting, a disco, etc.



**Tipperary Youth Project** is run by one Community Youth Worker, Donna McCarthy and two Youth Work Assistants. The project is based in 17 Bank Place, Tipperary Town. The project is funded by The Department of Education and Science, South Tipperary VEC, Pobal, Dormant Accounts, National Youth Arts Council and RAPID.

Tipperary Youth Project aims to work with young people aged 8 to 18 years by running programmes and activities, in co-operation with their community, which enhance their personal and social development through their voluntary participation.

**Objectives**

- To run a safe and fun place for young people to use
- To provide information and programmes for young people as the need arises.
- To continue to strive to make the project and the youth cafe more volunteer led.

In 2009, the project ran many junior and senior groups, a young mother's group, a Fitness Boys group, Midnight Soccer, and other initiatives around the town. Each of the groups took part in different programmes according to their needs and likes. It linked closely with the Resident's Associations in the town, and also saw the resumption of the youth cafe/ drop in on a number of evenings during the week.



In 2009 Tipperary Youth Project was involved in the St Patricks day parade, junior and senior variety show, the project ran Easter workshops and an Easter Disco in conjunction with St Michaels Avenue; a successful summer camp was held in July with 60 young people taking part. The project also helped to run the Knockanrawley Summer Camp, The Project also ran the FAI/TRYS Town Street Soccer League, with over 110 young people taking part. In September the project was also involved in

**Spotlight: Catwalk Queens**

Pictured below is Lauren Martin posing with one of her own designer outfits. Lauren was involved in a 'Project Catwalk' style project with the Tipperary Youth Project. The girls were tasked with designing their own outfits and then going on a fashion shoot to showcase the outfits. The girls were photographed by a professional photographer who is based in Dublin. They had great fun posing all over Tipperary Town.

The finished photographs were then displayed in the Theatre Bar, The Excel, as part of the YIIPPE Festival Launch in September. Christy Turlington, watch out when these young ladies kick up their heels!



organising and running the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual YIIPPE Festival, which attracted a large number of young people and families from the community.

A key highlight for the Tipperary Youth Project in 2009 was the continued success of the Tipperary Manic Fantastic Youth Theatre, under the guidance of Lisa McGrath and Teresa Normile.



In 2009 the **TAR Youth Diversion Project**, staffed by Sue Cox and Teresa Normile, built strong links within the local community, through the Community Gardai, JLO, School, HSE and parents of young people. During 2009 the project worked to consolidate the work done to date and to identify new trends and issues arising with the young people of the town. The TAR Youth Diversion Project is funded by the Department of Justice, and through the European Social Fund, and is for young people between the ages of 10 and 18 years who live in Tipperary Town. The project aims to offer to young people the opportunity for personal development and to encourage positive social behaviour through youth work programmes and other activities. It also works to enhance the relationships between the Gardai and young people and their families living in Tipperary.

**Objectives of the project**

- To identify and work directly with young people at risk of being in trouble with the law.
- To provide young people with skills and alternative ways to spend their leisure time.
- To foster positive relationships between young people, local residents, community groups and those in authority.

Over 100 young people, members of 14 groups participated and engaged in the service over 2009. The groups and services provided are responsive to the needs of the young people involved in the TAR Project.

**These groups include**

- Personal Development programmes who participated in a film making project
- Traveller Groups who were preparing for involvement in Comhairle na nOg
- Enterprise Groups
- Fitness Groups
- Mentoring programmes
- Copping On Programmes
- Early School Leavers Groups
- Midnight Soccer
- Drug Awareness programmes
- Summer Programmes
- National Youth Diversion 3 Day Camping event in Lough Dan
- Junior and Senior Summer Buzz
- Outdoor pursuits facilitated by RTE famous "Teens in the Wild" Sinead Pollard.

**Other supports**

2009 was encouraging in terms of services for families and parents of young people involved in the Project. Parenting courses and support services were facilitated and auricular acupuncture treatments were offered and availed of by a number of Parents.

3 Drives House was opened in November 2009 and is now the home of 80% of the groups. The young people enjoy participating in the house of the three drives. Over the last few months a group of young men have been working on the tiling in the 3 Drives' bathroom. The house is also used one day a week at lunch time for young people. Parents of the young people call into the community house on a weekly basis.



**Spotlight: Manic Fantastic Youth Theatre**

The Manic's are in their second year. In late 2009, the Youth Theatre affiliated with National Association of Youth Drama (NAYD). The group is facilitated by Lisa McGrath and Teresa Normile and is a group for young people interested in Youth Drama and Productions. There was on average membership of 12-15 young people. The group met once a week during school season and up to 4 times during the summer.

As well as a yearly event the young people involved participate in various events throughout the year. One such event was "Jam in the Plan" an open mike opportunity in an open outdoor venue for young people and members and the greater community, this took place in July.

The group produced 2 one act plays, "Easy Stages" and "Phear" during the Yippee Festival in September. The play was performed for one night in The Excel Arts Centre and was well received.

Manic Fantastic Theatre group received a small amount of funding from the County Council in October which allowed for a 4 hour workshop with London based Director, Producer and Actor, Shane Dempsey open to young people in South Tipperary. There were 25 young people in attendance and was a great success. 2010 looks promising considering the Manic Fantastic Theatre Group have received funding from the Arts Council

The **Mid Tipperary Drugs Initiative (MTDI)** is a Community Based Drug Initiative funded by the Health Service Executive and administered by Tipperary Regional Youth Service. The MTDI was established in 1999 as a response to the growing public concerns around issues of drug problems in the area. The MTDI covers the geographical areas of Tipperary, Emly, Cappawhite, Dunderum, Bansha, Golden, Cashel, Killenaule, Ballingarry, Mullinahone and Fethard as well as their rural environs. The MTDI has an office in both Hogan Square, Cashel and Bank Place Tipperary and is run by the Project Worker Carmel O'Neill

The aims of the MTDI are

- To raise awareness of drug related issues amongst young people, parents and the wider community.
- To empower communities to respond to drug issues in local areas
- To inform national and regional policy, where possible, with regard to the local needs of the mid Tipperary area.
- To reduce the amount of drugs available and to improve the quality of life for people affected by substance misuse.

2009 was a busy year for the Mid Tipperary Drugs Initiative. January saw the introduction of the Certificate in Addiction Studies to Tipperary Town. Mentoring programmes in both Tipperary Town and Cashel were established in conjunction with the TAR diversion project and Cashel NYP. The MTDI also worked on an ongoing basis with Youthreach, Cappawhite in facilitating substance misuse workshops and diversionary activities including paintballing, horse riding and water sports.



The MTDI also linked with local services such as the TAR Diversion Project, Tipperary Town and Spafield Community Resource Centre in running a women's group which looked at issues such as addiction

within the family, parenting concerns and personal development.

The MTDI also offers an alternative therapy service, whereby individuals affected by substance misuse or their families can avail of auricular acupuncture and also other holistic therapies. A drop in service was established in Tipperary Town with referrals from the Substance Misuse Service as well as self referrals. This service was held in the Three Drives Family Resource Centre.

2009 also saw the MTDI deliver both Information evenings and Parent to Parent courses in various communities throughout the catchment area such as Tipperary, Lisvernane, Shronell, Glengoole, Gortnahoe, Fethard, Killenaule but to name a few. This awareness raising campaign also stretched to Cashel where the young people of Cashel NYP held a play around the dangers of substance misuse.

***Spotlight: Certificate in Addiction Studies Course completed in Tipperary Town***

Congratulations to all participants who completed the "Certificate in Addiction Studies" in Tipperary Town in 2009. The course was coordinated by the Mid Tipperary Drugs Initiative, in conjunction with the Health Service Executive Substance Misuse Service South Tipperary, the National Addiction Training Programme and Waterford Institute of Technology. The course was open to both professional individuals and also members of the community. Thirty participants completed the course and received their certificates from Mr James O'Shea from the National Addiction Programme, HSE. The course was run over a ten week period, with guest speakers brought in each week to cover various topics around the issue of substance misuse.

The course was run in St Ailbe's School, Tipperary Town from January to March 2009 with the support of Ms Mary Ryan, Director of Adult Education with the school. The MTDI would also like to thank all guest speakers who gave up their time to deliver information sessions and also to thank the participants for their attendance and participation.



The past year in the **Templemore Youth Project** has seen the project go from strength to strength.

Templemore Youth Project is based upstairs in the Town Hall Templemore. The project is run by the community youth worker Christy O'Neill and youth work assistants Sandra Dunne and Deniece Touhy. The success of the project during the last year is largely down to the help of volunteers and seventeen junior leaders who help out each week throughout the year and are a great asset to the Templemore youth project. The Junior Leaders came in twice a week throughout the year to help us with our junior groups. They organised a Fun Day for all Junior Clubs in Tipperary Regional Youth Service to come to last May. During a five week period over the summer months they helped out for the full week of the Templemore Youth Project Summer Camp and they ran a treasure hunt in the Templemore town park four weeks running for junior groups from Thurles, Cashel, Tipperary town and Littleton. Also at Halloween they helped in the construction and running of the Haunted House. The parents of these teenagers must be very proud of the help and dedication they show to the project and they are an example to us all of what can be achieved with a little time and effort.

### Summer Activities

Templemore Youth Project started their summer season with a fun run in the sun. A group of young women took part in the Women's Mini Marathon in Dublin in June. These young women fundraised for the youth project in the weeks before the marathon. During July they had 65 local young people taking part in their summer camp and they all had a great time. In August the senior groups were brought to Alton Towers in England.

### Templemore Haunted House

Templemore Youth Project's Haunted House in October was their best to date. They constructed a house upstairs in the town hall. It consisted of seven rooms, tunnels and hidden compartments, each more scary than the last. There was a prison, a graveyard, ghosts, zombies, witches - even a corpse bride and groom. Only the bravest young people made it through to the end. Over 300 young people from youth clubs all around Tipperary came to visit the haunted house during the four days it was opened.

In December Templemore Youth Project took part in Tipperary Regional Youth Service's annual senior variety show in the Bru Boru theatre in Cashel. It was a very successful night for Templemore as they won six out of the seven categories they entered. The young people put in loads of effort and practiced for two months to perfect their acts. Four of the acts went forward to the regional sections of the YWI

Variety Show in Wexford in 2010, and Our dance act is being sent forward to represent Tipperary Regional Youth Service in the National Games Finals in Donegal.

Groupwise, our junior boys group ran every Monday from 4.30pm to 5.30pm, junior girls group is on every Wednesday from 4.30pm to 5.30pm. Our senior groups run from 6.30pm to 8.00pm on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, we also have drop in from 8.00pm to 9.30pm on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. On Thursday we have a film production group which runs from 4.00pm to 6.00pm. Groups also meet up at weekends to work on various projects. Templemore Youth Project relies on the generosity of the people in Templemore and the surrounding area to get a lot of their projects done. We would like to thank all the people, businesses and organisations that have supported us in the last year.



### Spotlight: *The Devil's Bit Movie*

Christy O'Neill from Templemore Youth Project and Catherine Doyle from Cashel Neighbourhood Youth Project have teamed up to produce a horror film and the title is *The Devil's Bit*. They have a cast and crew of approx 40 people, 34 of these are teenagers aged between 13 and 16. The cast are not a professional acting group; they are made up from members from youth clubs and projects in the Tipperary Regional Youth Service (Templemore, Cashel & Cappamore). The film will be entered into various film festivals and they are looking into the possibility of showing it on a cinema screen for one night and invite the family and friends of everyone involved to come and see it. Most of the filming is done and they are aiming to have the finished product in time for Halloween. Huge thanks is owed to Bernie Goldblach of Tipperary Institute, and to SSSSS, a local volunteer, who are both giving up their valuable time to help out in the filming of the movie, and also the general running of the programme.

The **More Family Support** project is based in the Snooker Hall in Templemore and the project is funded by the HSE. The project, which is run by Lorraine Dolan, with support from Charlotte Ryan, aims to provide support for families using a holistic approach. The project is currently providing support to 18 families.

### Objectives:

- A referral based service that responds to the individual/families needs by developing and providing the appropriate services that are required to meet these needs.
- To provide a service where young people can feel valued and respected in a safe environment while also offering opportunities to these young people which will help them develop and learn.
- The project operates on a whole system approach in providing a service to vulnerable children and their families in a non stigmatizing fashion with the main focus being to provide better outcomes for these families.

The More Family Support Project responds to referrals made by agencies such as the HSE, Gardai, Community Services, School Completion Programme, Schools, Courts, PHNs, Home School Liaison officer and other referees who we deem appropriate. An assessment is then carried out between the referrer, the family and the More Family Project to determine the most beneficial and appropriate course of action.

We are currently running groups such as the teenage girls group, junior girls group, afterschools group and a parents group. Within these groups we are delivering programmes on Mental Health, Parenting, Respect and conflict resolution, teen fit and a junior sports programme. We also provide one to one support, whether it is providing a service to individual siblings within a family or the parents. While we offer one to one parenting we also have access to a child support worker who will work on site with a child



The More Family Project provides parenting to individuals and also groups. Early last year we completed the parent 2 parent programme with 9 participants. This year we have responded to many referrals made by the courts for individuals requiring one to one parenting support. The More family Project links closely with the parenting support programme in Loretto House in Nenagh and this relationship has proved a valued pooling of resources and excellent outcomes for the families involved.

### **Spotlight: Community Addiction Studies Course**

The first year of the Community Addiction Studies Course finished up in April 2009 with seventeen participants handing in final assignments. The purpose of CASC is to enable people to learn about drugs and their effects, develop an understanding of addiction, examine their own attitudes, develop the skills and knowledge to become more effective in their personal responses and respond to drug misuse in their own communities. The graduation for the 2009 participants is currently being planned and will be held in January to coincide with the Drugs Awareness Calendar launch. The course is being run for a second year going from October 2009 to March 2010 and is again being held in Nenagh. There are twenty participants currently taking part, all of whom attended a residential weekend away in Limerick in November. CASC is funded by the Mid West Regional Drugs Task Force in association with North Tipperary VEC



### **Spotlight: Thurles LGBT Group**

This group grew from strength to strength in 2009 with up to 13 young people attending weekly Drop In. Thurles Youth Project provides a safe, comfortable environment where we discuss issues that face young LGBT's, combat discrimination, promote equality, acceptance of diversity and awareness of LGBT issues, support and liaise with other LGBT members and societies around the country and become empowered and in turn empower other young LGBT's. Billie from Red Ribbon, Limerick facilitated six sessions for the young people looking at issues such as power, sexual health, HIV and homophobic bullying. The group went to Dublin twice, the second time to go to Leinster House to meet Senator David Norris.

**Thurles Youth Project** is based in Thurles and is run by Sara Leahy, Community Youth Worker with the support of two Youth Work Assistants.

Thurles Youth Project is a SPY project which aims to provide a safe alcohol free environment for young people while working to promote their personal, social and emotional development through their voluntary participation. On average, the project interacts with approximately one hundred young people weekly.

Our objectives include:

- To increase the young people's self esteem, confidence, awareness and knowledge through the delivery of various programmes.
- To enable young people to form their own views and give a voice to express them.
- To empower young people in Thurles and enable their participation in targeted youth work.

During 2009 we worked with many young people who participated in our groups and other activities that were organised during the summer months. The Monday and Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> class Afterschool groups took part in the Junior Variety Show in The Excel Theatre in Tipperary Town on 29<sup>th</sup> March and the Summer Camp in July.

The Streetsmart Media Group had a very active year winding up the radio show and focusing on designing a drugs awareness calendar which will be launched in January 2010. The group spent several months researching the different types of drugs and helplines available and were given a talk by Carmel O'Neill the MTDI worker. The aim is to give a calendar to every Transition year and 5<sup>th</sup> Year student attending the secondary schools in Thurles and distribute the remaining ones to the rest of the years.

The Senior Girls Group participated in many activities including participating in a six week self defence course. The First Year Group was also active during 2009 taking part in all the regional events such as the Senior Variety Show. The youth worker linked in with the School Completion Officer to work with a group of Second Years from Colaiste Mhuire Co-Ed. They partook in many activities such as swimming, soccer and coming up to Café Chillax to use the wide variety of facilities.

Café Chillax Youth Cafe has 52 registered members and some non members attending Drop In every Monday, Wednesday and Friday evenings. The Café underwent refurbishments in September. The pool room wall was knocked, expanding the size of the Café and was painted in youth friendly colours.

### **Thurles Café Committee**

The Café Chillax Youth Café Committee continued to meet weekly throughout 2009 to discuss the running of the Café and what they could do to improve it and increase membership. They were instrumental in their ideas for the refurbishments and picked out youth friendly colours to brighten up the Café. They maintained and expanded the healthy eating menu that was launched in 2008 and introduced a swear box, charging 20c a swear with all money collected going to charity. They also organised a trip for members to go Go-Karting in Cork in August.

### **Four Estates**

The Four Estates Community House underwent a wide range of renovations during 2009, expanding the space upstairs to cater for the ever growing numbers who attended the Homework Club every Tuesday. Members continued to receive support with their homework before taking part in activities such as arts and crafts, drama, using the facilities of the house and playing games outdoors when the weather permitted. Members of this group enjoyed a great day out in Templemore at the Junior Fun Day in May and more recently at Halloween; they went to the Templemore Youth Project to visit their Haunted House.

### *Spotlight: Thurles Estates Fun Day*

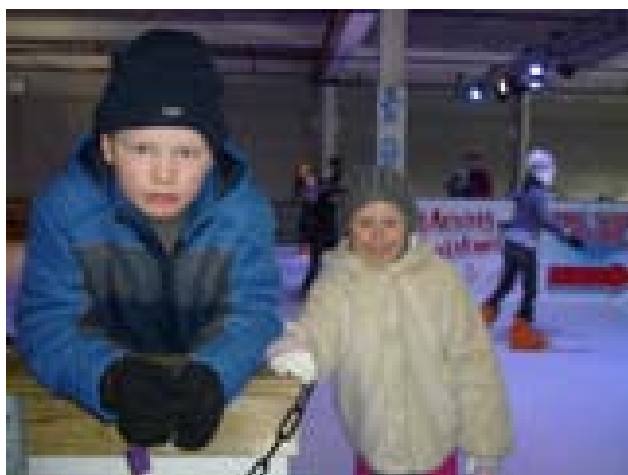
The Thurles Youth Project worked in conjunction with Brian Dowling from the Thurles Town Council and a number of residents from eight Residents Associations to host the Thurles Community Estates Family Fun Day. A lot of planning and preparation went in to ensure a safe and fun day was had by all. It was a great success with over 300 children and their families attending the Rugby Club on August 8<sup>th</sup> accompanied by their parents and guardians. They had numerous activities to choose from such as obstacle courses, relay races, bouncy castles, sumo suits, soccer skills challenges and face painting. They were also treated to puppet shows and a disco. Every age was catered for with a fully supervised parent and baby area. Every child was given a goody bag full of sweets and a barbeque provided a perfect ending to a fun filled day for the community. A special thanks to all those who volunteered on the months and days on the lead up to the Fun day – it couldn't have happened without them!



The **Traveller Youth Project** is based in Thurles. It is run by Edwina Butler and is supported by Claire Donnelly, Trisha Beere, Eileen Meaney as well as three volunteers and one junior leader. The aim of the project is to provide informal and personal / social development through games, art and crafts, drama, music and dance.

The objectives of the project are:

1. To support traveller youth in the affirmation of their culture and in combating the effects of discrimination.
2. To liaise with parents schools and other related agencies to combat the issue of early school leavers.
3. To encourage participation in regional events such as junior and senior variety shows and all other regional events hosted by TRYs.



As well as covering Thurles, the project also covers the Templemore and Littleton area and provides homework support and afterschool age appropriate activities for young travellers at primary and secondary school level in these areas. It also provides programmes for teenagers in Thurles Youth Café. The project is funded by NATC (National Association of Traveller Centres) in Athlone and is fully integrated. Funding is also provided by the HSE. Key programmes in 2009 included the Afterschools Club Thurles, the Afterschools Homework Club Templemore, our Summer Camp, our Afterschools Homework Club in Moycarky, Parents To Parents Training, the Teenagers Media Group (Littleton), the Teenage Boys and Girls Group (Littleton) and Health Programmes in association with Traveller Health Nurse.

Members took part in the YWI Christmas Card Competition, NATC National Art Competition, and TRYs regional events including 2 variety shows, 2 fun days and 1 basketball blitz. Resulting in participation from the project, young people took part in Healthy Eating, Healthy Lifestyles, and Literacy

Support, Art, Drama and outdoors activities. Participants and their families attended some fun events. The Christmas parties were held in Thurles Youth Café and included a trip to the Cinema. Moycarky had a sports day during the Easter holidays. Thurles young people enjoyed a fancy dress party in the Youth Café as a reward and social outlet.

Young people got the opportunity to meet people from other communities, participate in events and outdoor activities. The project placed a strong emphasis on ongoing parental contact, interagency meetings and school liaison.

### **Spotlight: Littleton Youth and Community House**

Tipperary Regional Youth Service became involved in 2009 in an interagency initiative joint initiative with Barnardos, the HSE, North Tipperary County Council, North Tipperary VEC and the community of Derrynaflan Estate in the development of programmes in a Community House in Derrynaflan, Littleton. TRYs has taken on the management of the house on behalf of the initiative, and it has lead to an exciting new range of programmes running in Derrynaflan in Littleton. From a slow start last July, groups, events and programmes have been set up to work with the whole community. TRYs has undertaken responsibility for the youth programme, putting in place groups for juniors and seniors, and supporting fundraising activities, a community fun day and several holiday events.

There were a lot of issues to be addressed such as underage drinking, the use of other substances and anti social behaviour. This initiative has resulted in new junior and senior groups being set up. The young people in this rural area have now been given the opportunity to engage in programmes and activities which they would otherwise not have had access to. For example they participated in a Halloween disco as well as trips to the cinema and ice skating for Christmas. They also entered art and photography competitions. A study group was set up for teenagers in the area as well as a Drop In facility.



TRYs has a **Youth Information Project** based in Tipperary & Thurles towns and is run by Pauline Cummins-Strappe – Youth Information Co-Ordinator with support from FAS and Rural Social Scheme Part time workers.

Funded by the Department of Education & Science project under national lottery grants “ **Youth Information is a specialised element of youth work provision, whose vision is to engage young people in positive relationships to empower them to reach their own potential and enhance their active participation in creating a fairer society**” Under this aim Youth Information provides centre based services in both Thurles and Tipperary town including an information service, internet suite and full secretarial function, which includes processing of Student Travel cards and practicing for Driver Theory test in our offices. In 2009 we saw an increase in clients wanting help with CV’s & job seeking and also youth looking to go abroad. We classify our information bank into 18 types of information, we log stats on information and have found our top queries in 2009 were - Health & Social, Education and Youth Work. Between the two centres we had 8726 queries. We also provide information to internal groups in TRYs such as café areas and groups. We have themed window displays in both centres as part of promoting issues of interest.

During 2009 our Outreach included a range of activities including Comhairle na nOg in both North & South Tipperary and Dail na nOg nationally.



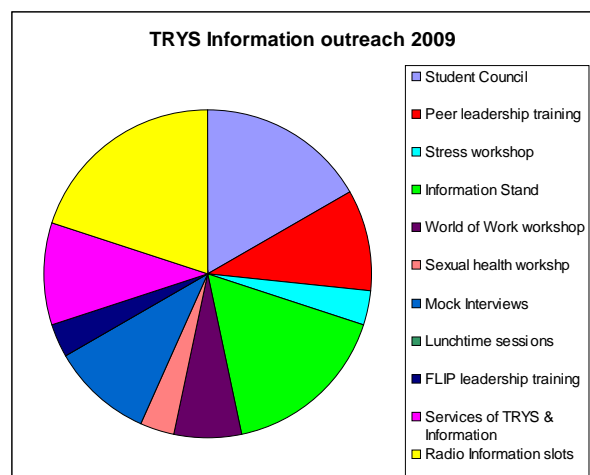
Promoting Information stands in local shopping centres and at events. Tipperary Youth Information Project also works closely with our clubs, projects and youth cafes. In 2009, we visited a number of regional events providing information and support to clubs, and we regularly visited the youth cafes. We intend to expand this area of our work in 2010.

As part of our outreach and training service we go into the schools on request for training. The most

popular is Student Council training, a day’s training for students on how to run a student council in the school. We do training with Schools prefects which is similar but focuses on Peer leadership skills and problem solving in a mentoring role in the school. Mock interviews and topical workshops are also done with schools and youth groups on request – the world of work is the most popular with youth at present as many have part-time work. In 2009 we saw the upgrade of our Eurodesk facility which allows young people to gain access to a variety of knowledge and opportunities through the Youth portal and the Eurodesk network across Europe to find information. Nationally Youth Information is part of the Irish Eurodesk Relay network and also links to Leargas Youth work service. In 2009 our first EVS volunteer started preparations for her experience of living abroad and will be heading off to Finland in 2010 for her European Voluntary Service.

### Spotlight: Youth Information Outreach

As part of Youth Information’s outreach service we offer Mock Interviews to schools, this involves a team of two people who will interview the students as in the real world, the students will be asked about themselves, the CV will be discussed, plans for the future and do they know how to get there i.e. College courses or training etc. The student will receive support and advice and also a feedback sheet at the end giving them tips on improvements prior to a real interview. Some schools request Mock Interviews outside of school hours so that the young people will have to dress for an interview as part of the experience this can also be arranged with Youth Information and utilises some of our Volunteers. A follow-up workshop on the “World of work” can also be booked by the schools. Students can visit our offices to do research on careers and college and also get help with CV’s if needed.



Tipperary Regional Youth Service – **Rural Outreach** offers rural communities support and training for youth provision at local level, once training is completed insurance can then be provided. TRYs currently has 168 leaders involved in its rural clubs, and 661 young people. The training of local volunteers includes topics on youth club planning & activities, child protection, insurance, discipline, committee roles & skills, policies and procedures. Youth clubs cater to young people in both primary and second level schools with junior clubs from 8 - 12 yrs and senior clubs from 1<sup>st</sup> year to 18. Youth clubs received support from the staff on an ongoing basis as well as club visits, regional events calendar and workshops. Links and training from other areas such as youth information and drugs awareness can be organised through rural outreach. Other activities that youth availed of through rural outreach in 2009 included Dail Na nÓg and Gaisce placement. In 2009, TRYs had 25 clubs on our books, and our outreach workers spent a large amount of their time supporting new clubs to start up, and supporting the clubs in their day to day running. We were delighted in particular in 2009 to commence working with Fethard Youth Cafe, which is a youth club with a difference. Run by a voluntary committee, the Fethard Youth Cafe is a community building which was refurbished to contain a state of the art cafe. TRYs has worked with the committee to provide training and support, and in 2010 will extend our work to also support the start up of a youth club in the town.

Regional activities are a large part of the Rural Calendar. In 2009 regional events included for both juniors and seniors, the Variety Shows, basketball and soccer blitzes, a Halloween Disco, Christmas Card Competition and of course the TRYs Fun Day for our Junior Clubs. Club training in 2009 included club induction training, volunteer training, arts and crafts, first aid, child protection training, and variety show training. Club volunteers also had the opportunity to take part in the Volcheck initiative, which was run by South Tipperary Volunteer Centre.



The platform meetings through the year are a very welcome opportunity for the volunteer leaders to meet and exchange ideas and meet the rural team, and get up dates on events, activities, and policy. Two volunteer representatives sit on the Board of Tipperary Regional Youth Service, John Foley from Nenagh Youth Club and Dermot Riordan from Dunhill Youth Club represented the sector for 2009.

**Junior Clubs:**  
 Templederry Junior  
 Templetuohy Junior  
 Boherlahan Junior  
 Clonmore Junior  
 Drom/Inch Junior  
 Borrisoleigh Junior  
 Cappawhite Junior  
 Donohill Junior  
 Lattin/Cullen Junior  
 Newport Junior  
 Oola Junior  
 Scallagheen Junior  
 Knocklong Junior  
 New Inn Junior

**Senior Clubs:**  
 Nenagh Senior  
 New Inn Senior  
 Mullinahone Senior  
 Boherlahan Senior  
 Clonmore Senior  
 Fethard  
 Cappamore Senior  
 Oola Senior  
 Portroe Senior  
 Knocklong Senior  
 Drom/Inch Senior

### *Spotlight: Rural Clubs*

A year in the life of:

#### **Lattin Cullen Youth Club**

Lattin Cullen Youth Club is in its second year delivering supports and activities for the young people in their community. The club meets every Friday night between 7.45 and 9 in the local soccer club. Activities includes: Art and craft, quizzes, games and various outings. One such outing was to Shannon airport to see the control tower and back to Bunratty to explore its facilities and have a picnic in the sun.

The club also showed off their talent in the junior variety show held in the Excel winning first prize in the instrumental section. Once they got the hang of winning they also went on to win the T.R.Y.S. soccer tournament in Thurles.



### Fun in the Sun 2009!

Workers, leaders and young people all looked towards this fun day with anticipation and trepidation! Would we be wearing wellies or sunscreen? By worshipping the Sun Gods we managed to get them to shine on us and this year's annual junior fun day was a blazing success. We provided fun in the sun for over 200 young people. There were young people from Newport, Scallagheen, Templetuohy, New Inn, Oola and Borrisoleigh Youth Clubs not to mention the young people from the Tipperary, Templemore, Cashel and Thurles youth projects.



There were plenty of activities for everyone to enjoy: novelty races, soccer skills, novelty games and for the more competitive there was the 100m sprint, long jump, long kick and long puc. Winners of these events progressed to a final and the overall winners were presented with prizes. For those not interested in sports there was a treasure hunt, novelty stalls where you could win a huge teddy by guessing his name. There were two bouncy castles and other novelty stalls. The face painters too were inundated with young blank faces to be painted. A huge amount of thanks must go to the junior leaders from Templemore Youth project who were involved in the organising and running of the fun day. And of course thanks to the young people who were brilliant and we hope ye all enjoyed yourselves and we look forward to seeing ye all again next year for another day packed with sun and fun!



### Fun in the Sun for Tipp Families

Families from all over Tipperary town were treated to fun in the sun last July thanks to Knockanrawley Family Resource Centre and Tipperary Regional Youth Services. These two organisations hosted a 'Fun for Families Day' on behalf of the HSE where parents and children got to experience what supports and services are available to them in Tipperary.

There was fun to be had too! Rosie and her exotic animals entertained the audience both young and old all afternoon while the younger audience were treated to Rico's magic show. There was ju-jitsu workshops, storytelling sessions, face painting and novelty races. Marian's Hoola Hoopla made sure there were plenty of laughs all round and excitement too when she did her 'ring of fire'. Everyone was encouraged to take part in the family collage, facilitated by Maureen Walsh, where a map of Tipperary was designed and decorated using recycled material. For parents TRYS staff provided them with the opportunity to relax availing of free auricular acupuncture sessions. For those of us outside in the beautiful sunshine there was free ice cream and refreshments.

On a more serious note there were information stands where families could find out what services were available to them from the various organisations in Tipperary that are funded by the HSE. Some of the organisations who attended on the day were; South Tipperary Community Childcare, CURA, Barnardos, Carrick-on-Suir Neighbourhood Youth Project, Cuan Saor Women's Refuge, South Tipperary Community Mothers Programme. Knockanrawley Resource Centre and Tipperary Regional Youth Service also had information stands detailing the many supports they offer.



### TRY's First Annual Jam in the Plan

Never mind Oxegen, Glastonbury, Electric Picnic. Yeah, sure they're filled with multi-talented famous performers. Tipperary Regional Youth Services proved that Tipperary too is filled with talent and that we can put on an open air concert to show case this fact. The first ever Jam in the Plan took place amid some dodgy weather but it has to be said that the talent was anything but dodgy. There was a mixture of young performers among some of our more seasoned local talent.



Anthony O Connor opened proceedings with some tracks from his new album. The sun came out as soon as Anthony strummed the first chords. Hollis, Megan and Leonie O Connor gave the Von Trappe family a run for their money with their showcase of musical talents. Hollis sang both in Irish and English while Megan played the tin whistle and Leonie sang a Beatles favourite, The Yellow Submarine. Michael Marnane entertained the audience with some Elvis numbers and finished his set with a swinging version of Fly Me to The Moon. Eilish McCarthy, winner of the Abbey Factor youth talent competition, finished the concert with her set which included some songs this talented young lady has written herself.

Tipperary Regional Youth Services are determined to run the Jam in the Plan as an annual event. We would like to thank everyone who took part on the day, to the wonderful audience and of course to the residents for their work in the upkeep of the plan.

### Summer Buzz with the Garda Diversion Project

The Tar Project ran a Summer Buzz for young people age 12-17years old. The young people participated in a lot of events. Every one met at 11am every morning and the events continued going all day and also in the evening. The events included bowling, horse riding, outdoor rock climbing, river flowing, Aqua dome hair and beauty treatments among many other events. Most of the activities

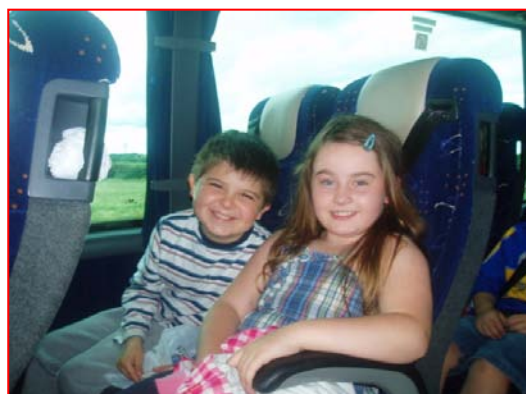
took place outside Tipperary town, as this is what the young people wanted. All of the young people had never done any outdoor rock climbing before or river flowing. It was a great achievement and experience for all the young people. It was great seeing the young people enjoying themselves and I don't think I have ever seen them smile so much.

### Summer Camp Madness all over Tipperary

For one action packed week in July, 55 children from Tipperary town took part in the Tipperary Summer Camp, which took place in St. Ailbe's Secondary School. Monday and Tuesday saw the rain stay constantly over Tipperary but luckily enough it cleared for the rest of the week and did not hamper the excitement of the week. It was an action packed summer camp with activities including: Ju Jitsu, cinema trip, kite making, dance workshop, trip to Empire of Fun. Templemore Youth Project hosted a treasure hunt for the young people and they also got to play some pitch and put and other sports. Friday was a 'great fun' day, the young people started with a Bouncy Castle, face painting, arts and crafts. After lunch everyone took part in a fancy dress disco, there were some amazing costumes on the day and the face painting put the finishing touches to many great outfits. When it was all over there were many sad faces that the week was over, and a few kids were heard saying that it was the 'best week ever'.

### Thurles Youth Project

52 young people from Thurles and the surrounding areas participated in the Thurles Affordable Summer Camp. Free places were offered to the primary schools in the town as well as to Barnardos. Activities such as swimming, arts and crafts, a sports day, taek wan do, baking, pitch & putt, among other things were organised for the week with numerous spot prizes being distributed daily for best effort and participation. They thoroughly enjoyed the week. Our LGBT Group did a night watch in August, and 25 young people participated in The 1<sup>st</sup> Year Summer Fun Activity Days which took place every Thursday in June and July



### Cooking Workshop

23 young people aged 12-18 took part in the cooking workshop. They started with learning the importance of hygiene and safety in the kitchen as well as learning how to properly prepare, peel and cut fruit and veg. Once they had these skills learned they were introduced to the kitchen where they learned how to properly prepare healthy, nutritious, cheap and easy to cook meals. Among the meals they have learned to make are omelettes, chicken stir fry and wedges and chocolate biscuit cake. They were each given a booklet compiling all the information and recipes they had learned over the course of the workshop.



### Thurles Community Estates Association Fun Day

TRY5 and the Thurles Town Council were working in conjunction with representatives from various estates in Thurles to hold a family Fun Day on 8<sup>th</sup> August in the Rugby Club for young people up to the age of 16. This whole day was a great success with over 300 children attending on the day accompanied by their parents and guardians. They had numerous activities to choose from such as obstacle races, relay races, bouncy castles, sumo suits, soccer skills challenges and face painting. They were also treated to puppet shows and a disco. Every age was catered for with a fully supervised parent and baby area. Every child was given a goody bag full of sweets. A barbeque provided a perfect ending to a perfect fun filled day for the community.

### Templemore Summer Fun

Templemore Youth Project started the summer season with a fun run in the sun. A group of young ladies took part in the Women's Mini Marathon in Dublin in June. Well done girls! Templemore's summer camp again this year was run as an affordable camp. We had 65 local young people taking part and they all had a great time. Activities

during the camp included: Treasure Hunt, Pitch & Putt, Arts & Crafts, Dance Classes, Sports Day, Day Trip to Fort Lucan, Trip to Leisureworld, Face painting and a wonderful Magic Show. Great credit is due to all the leaders who helped during the week. Junior leaders from Templemore and Cashel helped for the full week and without their help we would have struggled to run such a successful camp.



### Cashel Summer Activities

In Cashel, 92 young people attended the local summer camp in 2009, which was held in Cashel Rugby Club. Activities included: arts, crafts, treasure-hunts, sports days, magic shows, face-painting, and a disco.

16 senior members of the Cashel youth project joined with members of the Templemore Project on a trip to Alton Towers in England. This outing strengthened the bond between the youth centres and developed team playing skills with the young people. A group of 12 6<sup>th</sup> class members who completed a transition year programme went on a trip to Trabolgan in July, and a senior group of 10 boys went on an outing to St.Pat's young offenders prison after they completed the Copping On programme.



### YIIPPE Festival 2009

The skies over Tipperary Town lit up in September as Tipperary Regional Youth Services (TRYs) were announcing that the second annual YIIPPE Festival was well and truly underway. The weather and festivities were just what the doctor ordered especially for everyone who had just gone back to school.

The YIIPPE Festival kicked off with a production by the Youth Services, Manic Fantastic Youth Theatre. The group put on two one act plays, one very serious lesson about the dangers of drugs and the other made sure people went home laughing. The group treated the audience to a comedy called Easy Stages. Well done to the young Manic Fantastic performers and we look forward to forthcoming productions.



Friday night's festival guests were treated to wonderful array of talent in the Market Yard. Thanks to the C.J. Kickham band who led the street spectacle into the Market Yard where they entertained a growing audience. As the night wore on the Wobbly Circus and Marion Hula Hoopla left the young audience and their families gasping as they performed amazing tricks with fire. As if this wasn't enough entertainment the Armani Acrobats, who performed like elastic bands, wowed the crowds with their acrobatics, skipping and limbo dancing.

Friday night ended with a big bang, literally. The incredible fireworks display was even better than last years, if that's at all possible.

Saturday was a fun filled day for everyone with a craft fair in the Plan in the morning and early afternoon. The weather couldn't have been better and there were some lovely stalls to browse through. Most of these stalls will be back for our Christmas Craft Fair in the Plan in December so look out for that. Saturday evening's proceedings took place in the Abbey field where families took part in fun and sports events.

TRYs would like to thank the Abbey School for giving us the use of their field and also to our volunteers who helped out on the day; Aaron Hickey, Sliotar and Nicola Twomey.



Sunday, the last day of the festivities kicked off with storytelling time for the young children. They were treated to a puppet show telling the story of T.S. Elliotts Cats. Sunday evening ended the festival with a barbeque and disco in Kiely's Baker Place. Thanks to Jerome Kiely for hosting this party for us.

Tipperary Regional Youth Service would like to thank everyone for helping and supporting them on this venture. It was a mammoth task but thanks to the community and business support it all became a reality. Thanks to Tipperary Co-Op for the Gig Rig! Thank you to RAPID, An Gardai Siochana, The Civil Defence, the Town Council and everyone who made this festival the success it was. We look forward to seeing you all again next year!



Our current North Tipperary Community Employment Scheme has twelve participants and is administered by the FÁS office in Thurles, and supervised by Caroline Burke in the Thurles office. The scheme is based primarily in the towns of Thurles, Templemore and Littleton, with outreach workshops and training being offered to schools and communities in the region and at remote locations, by our information staff in conjunction with our Youth Information Co-ordinator. We are also beneficiaries of the Moorehaven Scheme in Tipperary Town with 5 workers based in our Tipp Youth Centre and 2 workers in Cashel, supporting the youth projects and administration of the organisation in South Tipperary.



The objective of our project *is to provide the participants with the knowledge, skills and attitudes, which will support their transition to work, whilst nurturing their contribution to the organisation's work in promoting and providing quality youth work programmes.*

The valuable work undertaken by the participants is divided into distinct categories:

- Reception
- Youth Information
- Administration
- Youth Work

During 2009 the participants took part in a number of work related training courses and more specialised specific skills training courses, in order to aid and enhance their progression prospects. The on-going training and development received by our participants includes:

- **Health & Safety**
- **Child Protection— Keeping Safe**
- **Disability Awareness**
- **Drug awareness**
- **Eurodesk Training**
- **Youth Work Skills**
- **Communication & Presentation Skills**
- **Active Leadership Award**
- **I.T. Skills**
- **Certificate & Diploma Courses in:**
  - ❖ **Community Addiction Studies, certified by Tipperary Institute**

- ❖ **Diploma in Youth & Community Work, UCC**
- ❖ **FETAC Level 3 Core Skills**
- ❖ **FETAC Level 6 Finance**

To date our progression rate has been high with the majority of our workers going back into employment or education when they finish their term on the project. Tipperary Regional Youth Service has facilitated successful Community Employment Projects over the past 20 years. The organisation would like to acknowledge the tremendous support we receive from FÁS in enabling the continuation of successful projects. Tipperary Regional Youth Service looks forward to many more years as sponsors of Community Employment.

### **Spotlight: Staff member Catherine Flynn**

Catherine Flynn has worked with Tipperary Regional Youth Service for 2 years, initially starting as a Youth Information Worker, in the Tipperary Town Office. This post consists of working with young people and supplying information on a range of issues to the public, providing typing and information on C.V.'s and Grant and Student Information. There have been a number of workshops that she has participated in, helping to deliver them in schools and in youth groups, including student council training, mock interviews, stress and rights in the workplace. Also she has got involved in helping with the Comhairle nOg, Summer Camps activities – the list goes on!

In her two years Catherine has availed of and completed a range of courses both through the Youth Service and FAS, which include Computer Skills FETAC level 3, Core Skills FETAC Level 3, First Response First Aid FETAC level 5, Fire Prevention, Addiction Skills Program, Gold Star Disability Awareness, Child Protection Awareness, Art Therapy( Cork College of Art),Active Leadership Training, Facilitation Skills, Assist, which has led her into completing a Diploma In Executive & Life Coaching Skills in Cork. Catherine is now planning to do a Train the Trainer Course and use her skills within the Youth Service. Catherine has learned and utilised the Courses within the Youth Services moved forward during her time as a C.E worker and is continuing as information worker to gain knowledge and experience.

## And our newest addition ....

On 9th of November 2009 Donal Kelly began work on the Local Training Options Programme. The project was a RAPID pilot project funded by FAS and sponsored by TRY5. The aim of the project is to target the significant concentration of young people with low educational qualifications and work experience living in RAPID estates. The initiative would deliver a unique training and work placement programme for 18-23 year olds in Tipperary Town. The work/ training would break down on a weekly basis as one day training and 4 days in workplace.

The project was an attempt to engage with young adults on JSB and JSA, and to provide them with an opportunity for training and work placement. The training would be two fold, firstly there would be generic training that all participants attended; Core Skills, Health and Safety, Manual Handling secondly we would focus on placement based training e.g. forklift ,mini digger ,first aid ,this would be in consultation with employers.

The project took on 25 trainees on the 30 November. The initiative only ran for 4 weeks in 2009 including Christmas, by this time the Health and Safety and Manual Handling had been completed and Core Skills FETAC level 3 has been started. All of 25 trainees had gone through a very detailed needs analysis process and all had been placed in their work placements. We endeavoured where possible to place trainees in placements that best suited their needs and expectations and in jobs with genuine employment prospects.

On completion of project all participants will have achieved the following, minimum FETAC level 3 awards, Core Skills Modules completed, worked with a local employer/business, have a clear map of where their next progression would be. It was also hoped that some would have progressed to employment by April 2010.

## Financial Administration

We had another very busy year and once more added to our family of projects with the commencement of the FAS Local Training initiative.

We supplemented our income from our core funders to the amount of 55034.00 through various fundraising activities, outreach programs and contributions from participants. As with previous years our main funding streams for our youth work projects have been through Youth Work Ireland, the Department of Justice, The Health Service Executive (South & West), National Association of Traveller Centres & FAS. We also received specific funding from South Tipperary County Council for South Tipperary Comhairle Na nOg, Early School Leavers programs and Young Mothers Programmes, the Mid West Regional Drugs Task Force for our CASC program as well as running drug & alcohol free events for young teens. South Tipperary VEC has provided funding for outreach programs to rural communities within our region. We also received funding from the Community Foundation of Ireland for our LGBT project, North Tipperary Co Council for the Templemore project and Thurles Town Council for the programs in the Monakeeba Community House. Funding increased from the HSE west in 2009 which enabled us to expand and provide a regular range of activities in the community house in Littleton. The following is a broad breakdown of our income streams 2009

Programme and Fundraising Income	79975
Youth Work Ireland	381,631.38
HSE South	120,186.00
NATC	23,000.00
Dept of Justice/ ESF	115,127.51
HSE West	59,320.00
FAS LTOP	10,788.56
Dept of Gaeltacht	22,000.00
South Tipp VEC	8,600.00
South Tipp Co. Co.	28,050.80
North Tipperary Co. Co	800
North Tipp VEC	18,195.00
Thurles Town Council	694.95
MWRDTF	18,945.00
Community Foundation of Ireland	2,000.00
Dept of Social & Family Affair	8,697.00
Construction Income	489,532.04
Local Statutory Agencies (VECs County councils etc)	56,340.75

## Infrastructural Development

2009 saw the culmination of a number of building projects for Tipperary Regional Youth Service. Funding from Dormant Accounts was also received for the building works at 23 Grenane Drive Tipperary Town. The refurbishment in Cashel was largely funded through fundraising and South Tipperary County Council.



### - Bank Place, Tipperary Town

This was a significant development which sees us with a purpose built three storey youth centre in the middle of Tipperary Town. Considerable funding was received from Dormant Accounts through RAPID, South Tipperary County Council and the South East Regional Drugs Task Force and HSE to cover the cost of the buildings at 17 Bank Place. We now have a youth information centre, youth cafe, large community training room, office space and a smaller training room, as well as a back 'cottage' for group work. The Tipperary Town building houses our Tipp Youth Project, Youth Information Centre, TAR project, MTDI Project, Rural Outreach project, Local Options Training Project as well as other community activities. We hope to continue to develop the youth centre as a community asset that Tipperary Town can be proud of.

### - 3D House, Grenane Drive

As part of a collaboration between TRYs, RAPID and Tipperary Town Council, 2009 saw a complete refurbishment of the 3D house in Grenane Drive. Funding from the Dormant Accounts has seen this house open for business for young people from the Three Drives area, particularly through the TAR and Tipperary Youth Projects. It is intended in 2010 to start a volunteer led youth club from the house as well

### - Cashel Phase 2

Thanks to ALZA and South Tipperary County Council, as well as the Better Ireland AIB awards, we were able in 2009 to develop the second floor of the Cashel Youth Centre, to incorporate training space, a dance studio and classroom facilities to be used by South Tipperary VEC. This great building, which is owned by South Tipperary VEC, and taken on a long term lease by TRYs, sees an enormous amount of activities ongoing. It was launched in October by a local young magician and will no doubt house a multitude of young Cashel Talent.



### - Cafe Chillax

Thanks to funding from AIB Better Ireland we were able to upgrade the Cafe Chillax, taking guidance from the Cafe Committee as to what walls should be knocked and what colours to paint the space (this took some negotiation between different tastes and in the interest of not blinding visitors to the cafe!) The cafe is now an open and welcoming space, which is evident from the amount of young people regularly coming in on Monday, Wednesday and Friday evenings.

### - Littleton Youth and Community House

In July, thanks to North Tipperary County Council, TRYs took on the management of a house in the Derrynaflan Estate in Littleton. Local residents spend a considerable effort clearing the house, painting and decorating it, and sourcing furniture for its use at minimum cost. The house is now used on a daily basis for activities run by TRYs, Barnardos, North Tipperary VEC and the resident's association.

## Tipperary Regional Youth Service Strategic Plan 2009 – 2013

2009 saw the completion and launch of our strategic plan which was funded by Tipperary Credit Union and South Tipperary VEC. Thanks to support and consultation from 330 young people, 23 agencies, our volunteers, board members and staff, we now have a road map for the coming years. The key objectives of our strategic plan are:

1. **To provide a high quality, balanced programme of youth work for young people in the region**
2. **To actively encourage young people to participate in the work of Tipperary Regional Youth Service**
3. **To provide access to quality youth work throughout the TRY5 region**
4. **To increase the numbers of volunteers working with TRY5 across all programme areas**
5. **To be the best youth service in the country.**

### Standards and Policy Development

In 2009 we continued to work to deliver quality youth work services and a key part of this is our emphasis on policy and practice development. To this end, in 2009, a number of policies were reviewed and developed. Work took place on our Child Protection Policy, Substance Misuse Policy, Communications Policy, and a review of a number of other policies. We also initiated a subgroup on Curriculum Development, a major initiative which will be on going throughout 2010.

### Governance 2009

In 2009, the board played a key role in completing and launching the strategic plan for the organisation, and also overseeing policy and standards development for TRY5.

Tipperary Regional Youth Service's board is made up of community representatives, club representatives, and co-options from particular areas of expertise. The members of the Board were as follows:

Luke Murtagh (Chair)	Co-option
Brian Dowling	Co-option
Dermot Riordan	Club Rep
John Foley	Club Rep
Des Bell	Co-option
Gearoid McDermott (Treasurer)	Co-option
Mary d'Estelle Roe	Community Rep
Pat Dunican	Community Rep
Sinead McMahon	Co-option
Seamus King	Community Rep
Marie O'Connell	Community Rep

## Volunteerism in TRY5

We continue to put a major emphasis on volunteerism. There are many ways to get involved in TRY5 and in 2009 we saw volunteers get stuck in through Club work, Fun Days, Variety Shows, community events, project work ..... the list goes on. In 2009, South Tipperary Volunteer Centre got involved with us, running the Volcheck initiative which comprised of volunteers through a number of arenas, along with staff, being consulted on their involvement with TRY5 and how to make the experience even better. This initiative will be continued in 2010.

In order to ensure that volunteers are valued, every year we run a Volunteer Awards night. In 2009, it was run on the same night as the AGM. There was a great turnout from clubs, projects and parents of young people being awarded. Nine adult volunteers from clubs all over the TRY5 region, New Inn (Ellie Crosse), Tipperary (Michael Russell, Helen Walsh and Dympna Ryan), Cappamore (Sean O'Donnell), Oola (Kathleen Ryan and Vivienne Dee), Thurles (Anne Kennedy and Christina Buckley), received volunteer awards for their hard work and dedication to providing a safe space for young people to come together.

Two groups of young people who have come up the ranks so to speak also received awards for their help in organising events for the younger members of the clubs and projects. The two groups represented Cashel Neighbourhood Youth Project and Templemore Youth Project. The Cashel young people had spent the day baking cakes and buns, washing windows and polishing floors especially for the event.

### Staff Training and Development during 2009

Here at TRY5 we consider training and development for our staff to be paramount and during 2009 staff took part in the following training programmes:

- Diploma in Financial Management
- Diploma in Youth & Community Work
- Harm reduction training
- Mindout Programme - Mental Health programme and Copping On
- Degree in Youth & Community Work
- Auricular Acupuncture
- Quality Standards in Drug Education
- Parent To Parent Training
- ASIST Training
- Child Protection Training
- Community Addiction Studies

## Who's who in Tipperary Regional Youth Service 2009

### Central Administration Team

Cora Horgan	CEO
Olivia Ryan	Financial Administrator
Caroline Burke	FAS Supervisor
Noreen O'Sullivan	Scheme Administrator

### Youth Information

Pauline Strappe	Youth Information Co-ordinator
Winifred Quigley	Thurles Information Project
Ursula Condon	Thurles Information Project
Sheila Ryan	Thurles Information Project
Catherine McGrath	Thurles Information Project
Nicola Cahill	Thurles Information Project
Mary Finnan	Tipperary Information Project
Michelle O'Shea	Tipperary Information Project
Catherine Flynn	Tipperary Information Project
Aoife McNamara	Tipperary Information Project
Mary Laffin	Tipperary Information Project

### TAR Project

Sue Cox	Project Co-ordinator
Teresa Normile	Project Worker (ESF)

### Mid Tipperary District

Carmel O'Neill	Project Worker
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### Cashel NYP

Catherine Doyle	Community Youth Worker
Nuala Ryan	Youth Work Assistant

### Templemore Youth Project

Christy O'Neill	Community Youth Worker
Deniece Tuohy	Youth Work Assistant
Sandra Dunne	Youth Work Assistant

### Thurles Youth Project

Sara Leahy	Community Youth Worker
Marie Meany	Youth Work Assistant
Sharon Stanley	Youth Work Assistant

### More Family Support Project

Lorraine Dolan	Project Worker
Charlotte Ryan	Youth Work Assistant

### Tipperary Town Youth Project

Donna McCarthy	Community Youth Worker
Pamela Ward	Youth Work Assistant
Kelly McCarthy	Youth Work Assistant

### North Tipperary Traveller Project

Edwina Butler	Community Youth Worker
Clair Donnelly	Youth Work Assistant
Patricia Beere	Youth Work Assistant
Eileen Meaney	Youth Work Assistant

### Rural Outreach Project

Lisa McGrath	Communications and Events Officer / Community Youth Worker
Breda McCarthy	Rural Outreach Worker
Maura Carey	Rural Outreach Worker

*Photos of some of our TRYS Staff (the rest are camera shy!)*

