

Bere Island Newsletter

Issue 92

Winter 2024



Above: Snow on Hungry Hill 21/11/2024 ☑ Photo by Leila Sidley



Index

Page 2

Christmas Lights
Switch on
BIPG
BI Radio

Christmas Mass

Page 3

Lawrence Cove Marina
Bere Island Hotel
Christmas Newsletter
BI Bakehouse
BI Ferries

Page 4

ARG
B.I.T.E

Page 5

Scoil Mhichíl Naofa
BI Parkrun

Page 6

School Play

Page 7

iCAN

After school & Baby
and Toddler

Page 8

Rural Transport Bus
BI
BI First Responder
Group

Page 9

BI Arts Festival
Courses
Leader

Page 10

Shop & Ferry

Page 11

Rerrin Amenity Area
Oilean na gCaorach
Housing
WCICC
CarePack.ie

Page 12

Fuel Allowance
Housing Aid for older
people
Fire Prevention
Smoke & Carbon
Monoxide Alarms

Turning on of the Christmas Lights

The Christmas Lights in The Village will be turned on at 7pm on the 8th December with Carol Singing followed by Mulled Wine in Dessert



THE BERE ISLAND PROJECTS GROUP CLG office will close on Friday 20th December 2024 and will reopen on Monday 6th January 2025.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and Best Wishes for 2025.



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all of our customers.
Join us every Sunday night from 8pm Craic agus Ceoil.



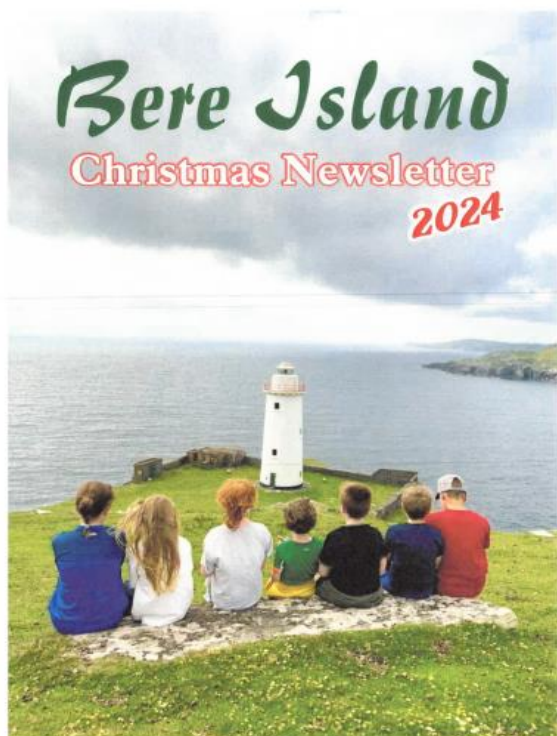
Christmas Mass will be held on Christmas Day at 10am



Lawrence Cove Marina

If you would like to browse in the craft shop for Christmas Gifts, please feel free to contact Rachel – 087 912 5930

Wishing all of our customers a very Merry Christmas a Happy New Year.



Lawrence Cove,
Bere Island,
Co. Cork .
Check us out on
Facebook & Instagram
027 75004

Wishing you all a very Happy & Peaceful Christmas & Healthy New Year

Winter times : Open Every Saturday Morning & New Year's Day Morning

Looking forward to Season 2025 & we will keep you posted on Facebook & Instagram.

Thanks to everyone for your support, we are extremely grateful & to our wonderful staff, they are truly amazing.



The Hotel

A few dates to put into the calendar for The Hotel:

- Annual Xmas pool and darts competition – keep an eye on Facebook for dates.
 - Annual Xmas party Sat 14th December. Everyone Welcome. Contact Maria to book.
 - Santa Claus will visit The Hotel on Sunday 15th December @ 2.30.
 - Christmas Jumper/ Outfit Night – Christmas Eve.
 - New Year – The Bear From Kenmare.
 - Women's Little Theatre. i
- For all bookings please contact Maria – 086 162 8344

Wishing all of our customers a Merry Christmas and Best Wishes for a great 2025.



The 2024 Bere Island Christmas Newsletter is now on sale at Murphy's Super Value Castle town bere priced published by The Bere Island Projects Group who would like to extend their thanks to all those who contributed to it.

Bere Island Ferries:

Christmas Schedule – December 23rd to Friday 27th the first ferry leaving the island is 10am (no 7.45 or 8.30 ferries). There are no ferries on Christmas Day.

Saturday 28th and Sunday 29th are as normal. Monday 30th to Wednesday January 1st inclusive the first ferry leaving the island is 10am.

For any medical appointments that require earlier ferries please contact Colum – 086 242 3140 Ferry is available at all times for emergencies.

There will be no Cargo service operating 23rd December – 2nd January. In the event Cargo is required please contact Glen – 086 209 7867.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all of our customers.



Active Retirement Group



ARG at Allihies Bowles Club



The active retirement group has been busy enjoying plenty of activities during the Summer and Autumn. Weekly yoga classes and singing for the brain sessions were enjoyed by the group. A podcast workshop was held at the community centre with members taking part in recording stories of growing up east and west on Bere Island. Along with activities on the Island the group enjoyed trips to the mainland including shopping trips to Bantry and to Allihies bowls club.

Members of the group enjoyed an evening meal followed by music in the Berehaven Lodge at the Beara Big bash at the start of October.

The ARG would like to wish everyone a merry Christmas and a happy new year.

B.I.T.E

Bere Island has won the National Island Award of the 2024 Supervalu Tidy Towns Competition for the sixteenth consecutive year, a great achievement for the island. Bere Island scored 369 points up 11 points from last year and received praise for their new biodiversity plan and community. The Bere Island Tourism and Environment Group submit the application each year to the Tidy Towns Competition and also work on a number of yearly projects as part of the application process.

The recycling centre will be open throughout Christmas and the New Year and we ask that all materials brought for recycling are clean and placed in the correct containers. For a charity bag, plastic sacks for recycling cans, paper, cardboard and plastics can be purchased from Murphy's Shop and the Projects Group Office. These can be placed outside your home on waste collection days and will be collected. Alternatively, the Bere Island Men's Shed are collected would normally go to the Deposit Return Scheme machines, all funds raised from these will towards projects being undertaken, please contact Oscar Daly on 027 75099.

Rubbish Collections over Christmas and for the first few months of 2025 will take place on the following dates:
Tuesday 3rd December 2024
Tuesday 17th December 2024
Tuesday 14th January 2025
Tuesday 11th February 2025
Tuesday 11th March 2025

Rubbish stickers are priced €10 and available from the Projects Group Office.

The Bere Island Tourism and Environment Group would like to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and a Healthy and Happy New Year.



Photos :
Left – New Welcome to Bere Island signs with thanks to Murphy's SuperValu Cork County Co Co.
Right – Community efforts around the island in preparation for the Tidy Islands.



Scoil Mhichil Naofa News

Class projects

This term my class did projects on different counties. It was very fun and interesting. Anthony did his project on Peru with Kyla and Amelia. We learned that Peru we loved hearing about the giant pandas. We love doing research projects and would like to do more.

By Anthony and Elliot

Jude did his project on Germany with Leo. His favourite animal in Germany is the house mouse and the white stork. His favourite cities are Frankfurt and Hamburg because they sound like food!!!

Cillian did his project on Jamaica with Erica and Meabh. We loved learning that Jamaica has the smallest and largest butterflies. Next, we would love to learn about Mexico.

By Cillian and Jude

Christmas play

This year Scoil Mhichil Naofa Christmas will be on the 18th of December 2024 during school time. We will also be performing the play on the 19th of December in the evening. It will have 7 songs and everyone in the school will be performing in it. We are so excited and we hope you can make it!!

MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

By Amelia and Meabh

New Students

On Friday the 8th of November two new students from Ukraine came to our school. Their names are Nikolay and Alexandra. Alexandra is in Juniors and Nikolay is in Seniors. Now there are twenty five pupils in the school. We are so happy to have them in our school and hope they are enjoying their new school.

By Erica and Abby

Halloween party

This year on the 25th of October we had a small Halloween dress up party at our school. We made rice crispy buns and we watched a Halloween movie called The Nightmare Before Christmas. After the movie we did a spooky box. The box has spooky stuff in it and we didn't know Halloween music. I dressed up as Cruella deVille and Leo dressed up as a dead soldier. Everybody looked so scary.

By Leo and Kyla



Bere Island Parkrun

After a rather rough 2024 for Bere Island parkrun, were all hoping for a better 2025. We did have some great numbers this year, we did have a lot of visitors and a few celebrities, but we lost one of our own. We will forever be thankful to John for starting Bere Island parkrun joining us anymore. Rest Easy John, we know you run or walk with us every week.

We are very grateful to Bere Island GAA for the use of their facilities every week, it's an added bonus. Also Edel and her crew in the bakehouse, getting our weary bodies feeling better after the coffee, tea, scones or fry. Our numbers wouldn't have been so high but for Bere Island ferries running a special trip out post parkrun, and the buses to ferry them to and from the start line. To all you brave souls who face into the blinding sun or the pouring rain, and all weather in between, thank you for making our parkrun what it is. And of course, our wonderful volunteers, who without, there would be no parkrun. All roles are easy if you would like to get involved.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas and a Prosperous Calm New Year. Onwards and upwards.

A reminder we will NOT have a Christmas Day run this year but will start 2025 on the right foot(or left) and meet in the GAA clubhouse for the first parkrun of 2025. 9.30 am on the 1st of January 2025 (year) then every Saturday thereafter.

SCOIL MHCÍHÍL·NAOFA
PRESENTS

THE FLEECE ★ FORCE



WEDNESDAY 18TH DEC AT 12PM

THURSDAY 19TH DEC AT 5PM

**INCLUDING CHRISTMAS RAFFLE
HOSTED BY PARENTS ASSOCIATION**

IN SCOIL MHCÍHÍL NAOFA, BERE ISLAND
ALL WELCOME
PLEASE JOIN US!

iCAN

Further collections have been added to our Bere Island community archive, including old island photos and an autograph book from the Bere Island Internment Camp.

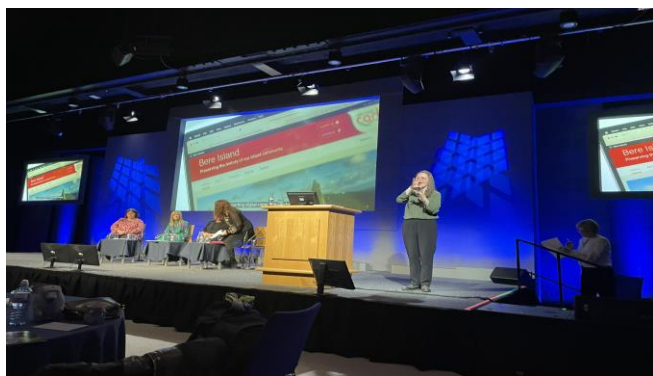
We would like to thank all those who have submitted photos. If you would like to include any old photos please contact Helen Riddell at

bereconservation@gmail.com

Photos can be emailed directly to Helen or we can scan them for you in the office.

In September Bere Island Projects Group were represented at the Heritage Ireland 2030 summit in Dublin Castle. The summit was opened by Minister Malcolm Noonan TD and featured a special presentation on the work that the Irish Community Archive Network are doing, and we were delighted that one of the community groups featured at the summit was Bere Island.

Our archive can be viewed at:
www.bereisland.heritagecork.org



ed

The Men's Shed have had We took part in a community project that was funded by creative places west cork islands to build planters for the community, we also supplied the art camps with crafts and made podiums for the festival.

We were grateful for further funding from creative places to help us run a leather workshop with Steven Carter which runs once a month.

Two members of our shed joined sheds from all over Ireland to participate in the Killarney National Parks 2024 rhododendron cull. The hospitality shown by the town and businesses of Killarney was amazing and a massive thanks to Men's shed the opportunity to take part. If anyone has rhododendron they would like rid of please feel free to contact the Bere Island you.

The Bere Island Men's S Thursday night at the community centre at 7.30pm. New members are always welcome.



Men's Sheds Ireland at Killarney National Parks

We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

After School Group / Baby and Toddler Group

The after school group has enjoyed meeting on Mondays at the community centre. Silvana and Belinda have been fantastic at helping the kids be busy and entertained. The Baby and Toddler group continues to meet Wednesdays at 10am, all welcome to pop in and have a coffee and chat.

Music lessons have been taking place on Saturday mornings and the group also enjoyed both fit dance classes and art classes. The artist Jane Hayes held an exhibition and children's community centre in October, both days were well attended and enjoyed by kids and parents.

Bere Island First Responder Group

Bere Island Community First Responder Group are on call through the National Ambulance Service 24/7, 365 days a year. We provide emergency response to fill the care gap between an incident and the arrival of the National Ambulance Service.

We also provide free courses and training throughout the year to learn how to do CPR and use a Defibrillator.

Bere Island is lucky to have 6 Defibrillators as follows:

- 1 Oileain na gCaorach
- 2 Bere Island Community Centre
- 3 Wild Atlantic Glamping
- 4 Lawrence Cove Marina
- 5 Rerrin Post Office
- 6 Bere Island GAA Pitch

They are all always unlocked and accessible to everyone.

We are always looking for Responders to join our group please call 086 1621803 to receive free training to become a Community First Responder.

Rural Transport Bus Service Bere Island

The Rural Transport Service on Bere Island is operated by Local Link, Bantry. The service operates weekly on Tuesday, Friday and Sunday and is available for use by both residents and visitors alike. A small fee is required for those using the service who do not have a Free Travel Pass. Please note anyone availing of the bus who does not have Free Travel must pay for the ferry separately in the usual way.

Approx. Timetable Tuesday & Friday to CTB

Departs Rerrin PO 9:20am
Departs The Hotel, Bere Island 9:30am
Depart on Bere Island Ferries Ltd 10am

Returning on the 1:30pm ferry

Approx. Timetable - Sunday Mass

Departing Rerrin PO 9:20am
Departing The Hotel, Bere Island 9:30am
West End, Bere Island 9:35am
All passengers dropped home after mass.

As this service is a door to door service please contact Gemma the day before to book on 086 2552216

For more information contact BIPG on 02775099.

Christmas Week

The Bus will go to town on Monday 23rd and Tuesday 31st December and Friday 3rd 2025.

(Submitted by BIPG)

Bere Island GAA

The Bere island GAA had a busy summer. They travelled out to Adrigole GAA for the annual Aidan Cremin 7 a side tournament. A great evening of football was had and congratulations to Urhan on winning the competition.

The

Bere Island Junior C team were crowned Beara Champions in August beating local rivals Adrigole in a very entertaining final. The club were delighted to host two children's summer camps run by BIPG at the clubhouse at pitch.

The club were delighted to host a under 8s football blitz in October with teams from all the Beara clubs and Tuosist participating. A great day was had and a special thanks to all the parents and to C Sullivan and Michael Crowley for all their great work during the year with the kids.

Bere island GAA were delighted to hear the good news that we received 3,000 as part of a sports capital grant to develop an astro all weather pitch. Along with fundraising, this funding will help us go ahead with the project. The facility will be open to the whole community and we look forward to completing the project.

The club would like to thank the RSS and CE workers for all their hard work throughout the year in keeping our grounds in great condition and always looking well. Bere Island GAA would like to thank all of our supporters, volunteers, players and coaching staff for their great work throughout 2024 and wish everyone a merry Christmas and a happy new year.



Beara Champions - Bere Island Junior C Team

The Bere Island Arts Festival

The Bere Island Arts Festival was held from September 19 to 22 this year. It was a massive success, with both islanders and visitors participating in the many events over the four days. Our festival theme is Discover, Connect, Belong, and all these things happened in abundance.

Many fantastic artistic events took place throughout the island, from poetry workshops to pinhole photography classes, pop-up Gaeltacht to art exhibitions, film screenings to dancing at the crossroads, live music, pop-up craft shop, artists talks, and the long table lunch.

It was exciting to see people of all ages participating in the many diverse events and discovering something new about themselves and the island on their journey. New connections were made, friendships formed, and fantastic hospitality was shown to everyone from the moment people set foot on the ferries until they parted again.

The Bere Island Arts Festival team would sincerely like to thank everyone for their support in making this such a memorable four days. We are blessed to have many splendid venues on our doorstep, including pubs, restaurants, accommodation, a marina, shops, a heritage centre, a church and military spaces. Thank you all for your invaluable support. To the many hard-working volunteers who came onboard to help make everything run so smoothly, you were terrific. To all our sponsors for their generous support, it would have been very difficult to reach the festival's high standards without your contribution. A special mention goes to Creative Places, West Cork Islands, and the Arts Council for their massive support and appreciation of our vision to bring all art forms to Bere Island.

Until we meet again,
Slán

The Bere Island Arts Festival Team

PS. Date for the diary. Bere Island Arts Festival will be from 18 - 21 September 2025.

We're looking forward to welcoming you all.



Courses

BIPG are organising a number of courses and workshops for the New Year. If there are any courses, you would like to see run please contact the office on 02775099 and we will try to arrange them. *(Submitted by BIPG)*



Venue: Lecture Theatre Lisa Lambe - Night Visiting Performance

Credit for all photos: Jed Niezgoda.



Venue: Drill Hall Long Table Lunch
Art Exhibition: 7 West Cork Islands



Venue: Wild Atlantic Glamping
Poetry Reading With Enda Wyley
Art Exhibition: Bill Griffin

Leader

Comhar na nOileán have secured the Leader Programme for West Cork. If you have an idea for funding, please contact Jude on jude@oileain.ie and she will discuss the project and provide you with an Expression of Interest form.

Murphy's Ferry Service

Mobile: 086-8091204 / 087-2386095 / 027-75988

Christmas Ferry Timetable 2024

Tuesday 24th December '24 to Wednesday 1st January '25

Depart Bere Island	Depart Pontoon
9:30am	10:30am
12:30pm	1:30pm
2:30pm	3:30pm
4:30pm	5:30pm
NO 7:30AM BOAT FROM Tues 24TH- Wed 1st	NO 8:00AM BOAT FROM Tues 24TH- Wed 1st

St. Stephen's Day Thursday 26th December 2024

Depart Bere Island	Depart Pontoon
12:30pm	1:30pm
4:30pm	5:30pm

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year to all our customers

Murphy's Shop & Post Office Christmas 2024

Gifts & Crafts

Coal, Gas, Kindling & Logs

Shop

Monday 23rd: 9-1:30 2:30-3:30
 Tuesday 24th: 9-2 2:30-3:30
 Wednesday 25th: Happy
 Christmas
 Thursday 26th: CLOSED
 Friday 27th: 12-1
 Saturday 28th: 10-2
 Sunday 29th: 11-12
 Monday 30th: 9-1:30 2:30-5:30
 Tuesday 31st: 9-1:30 2:30-5:30
 Wednesday 1st: 11-12
 Thursday 2nd: 9-2 2:30-5:30

Post Office

Monday 23rd: 9-1:30 2:30-5:30
 Tuesday 24th: 9-1
 Wednesday 25th: Happy
 Christmas
 Thursday 26th: CLOSED
 Friday 27th: CLOSED
 Saturday 28th: CLOSED
 Sunday 29th: CLOSED
 Monday 30th: 9-1:30 2:30-5:30
 Tuesday 31st: 9-1:30 2:30-5:30
 Wednesday 1st: CLOSED
 Thursday 2nd: 9-2 2:30-5:30



The amenity area at Rerrin recently got a much needed tidy-up and renovation. Thanks to Ability Contracting for completing the work.

Oileán na gCaorach

Since the last update on Oileán na gCaorach things may appear to have gone quiet as the ownership of the pier became an issue in progressing this project. The Council have consulted with their legal side and a report was prepared which we are told is positive and does not identify any major stumbling blocks to stop the project. We have asked for a follow up meeting with the Council and the Department to get the feasibility study started and we hope this will happen in the next few weeks..

Housing

The Property and Housing Section of Cork County Council met with BIPG earlier this year to discuss housing and the field they own on the island in Ballinakilla. At this meeting the Council agreed there was a housing need on the island, and they agreed to look at what could be done with the field. Surveys were carried out and we were recently informed they are in the process of drawing up plans for housing on the site. This is a positive step forward and we hope to meet with them again in the coming weeks and will keep everyone updated.

WCICC

The West Cork Islands Community Council held a workshop recently to review the internal working of the group. This was facilitated by Harriet Emmerson and looked at how the group is functioning and how it could be improved. We look forward to working with Harriet again to develop this work further.



Carepack.ie

Carepack.ie is an Irish volunteer initiative that connects people with nursing home residents to send them personalised Christmas gifts. Launched in 2020, it allows volunteers to match with residents via the website, prepare thoughtful care packages, and send them for free parcels under 1 kg. The project aims to spread kindness and ensure residents feel valued during the holidays. To sign up go to carepack.ie

Fuel Allowance

The Fuel Allowance is a payment to help with the cost of heating your home during the winter months. The Fuel Allowance is means tested, which means that the Department of Social Protection (DSP) assesses your income to see if you qualify. In Budget 2023, the Government widened the eligibility criteria for the Fuel Allowance. This means that people may now qualify for Fuel Allowance who were not eligible for it before. From January 2023, people aged 70 and over may qualify for Fuel Allowance as long as their weekly income (which includes their State Pension) is not for a couple. They do not need to be getting a qualifying social welfare payment. They still need to meet the other eligibility criteria. In addition, for people aged 70 or over, the amount of capital (savings and investments) that is disregarded (not considered) in the means test for Fuel Allowance has increased from €20,000 to €25,000. From January 2023, for people aged under 70, the amount of capital that is disregarded has increased from €20,000 to €25,000. Disability Benefit and half rate carers payments are disregarded from the means assessment. This means more of these carers may qualify for fuel allowance.

How to apply You can now apply for the Fuel Allowance online at www.mywelfare.ie. This is the quickest and easiest way to apply, you can also download a form from gov.ie/fuelallowance and post your completed form to the address on the form. To find out more about the Fuel Allowance and to see if you are eligible, you can: visit the website: gov.ie/fuelallowance phone 0818 200 400 or 071 9157100

Housing aid for older people grant

This grant is for people 66 years old or more to do essential repairs, so that they can continue to live in their own home. Sometimes this grant can be paid to people under 66 years old, but only in cases of hardship. Essential repairs can include:

- repairing or replacing electrical wiring
- repairing or replacing roofs and doors
- altering or repairing heating

For more information on what types of repairs are covered or to apply, please contact your local authority

Fire Prevention

- Never hang clothes near a fire.
- Never leave an electric blanket on in bed.
- Always switch it off before you get into bed.
- Never fill a hot-water bottle with boiling water. Make sure there is a cover on your hot-water bottle. Never use a hot-water bottle with an electric blanket.
- Never smoke in bed.
- Never block your air vents, especially in rooms where there is a natural gas or oil boiler, solid fuel or standalone gas heater. Blocked air vents can allow dangerous levels of carbon monoxide to build up.
- Never leave devices (such as your mobile phone) charging overnight as this can be a fire hazard.

Smoke and carbon monoxide alarms

- Make sure you fit smoke alarms which are heard clearly. If you live in a two-storey house, you need smoke alarms both upstairs and downstairs.
 - Use alarms which have long life batteries.
 - Get a friend, family member or neighbour to help you fit the alarm batteries regularly.
- carbon monoxide alarm in every room that has a fuel-burning appliance. These alarms are available in most hardware or DIY shops and some larger supermarkets. Basic models usually cost around €15. Please see www.carbonmonoxide.ie for more information on carbon monoxide alarms

