

**A SHORT ACCOUNT OF  
ANAMCHARADAS IN IRELAND  
1984-2007**

Greg Heylin  
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## INTRODUCTION

This brief account gives times, dates, numbers and names pertaining to the Anamcharadas movement in Ireland from 1984 to 2007. In that period this training programme in spiritual companionship has trained 180 people to be spiritual companions in eleven training programmes. This account is not a history or even a full blown story (in the style of stories relished by spiritual). It is merely an outline of a story that needs to be recorded for future reference.

The training programmes, the meetings, the structures of the Anamcharadas movement are important. However, they are always in the service of those who are being companioned and also of the companions themselves. The dynamic at the heart of Anamcharadas is the movement of the spirit in the lives of individuals. This is holy ground, a place of exquisite beauty, which can break one's heart.

I have lived through twenty years of the story of Anamcharadas and it has been close to my heart. It has, on occasion inspired, moved and transformed me, at other times it has exasperated and disappointed me. At times it has left me exhilarated and at other times bone weary.

Though this is the outline of a story, an ebb and flow of energy can be seen. At one point more than forty attended an annual gathering, now the number has diminished to twenty. In one memorable year there were four A4 size printed newsletters, each of 16-20 pages. In a later year there was merely a single A5 size letter with notification of the next annual gathering.

In recounting the story of Anamcharadas, I name all the people who worked on training programmes. Every individual who served on a committee is named in Appendix 1. This naming bears witness to the commitment of time and energy given by so many, for so long, to 'keep the show on the road'. Appendix 2 shows the numbers on different address lists, which did not always correspond with the total of paid up membership. Appendix 3 lists the anamchairde who have died. May they rest in peace.

The basis for record of the story of Anamcharadas has foundations in the minutes of the meeting and newsletters pertaining to the work of the movement which have been freely circulated to anamchairde over the years since its foundation.

I believe that the spirit moves in all of our lives and all aspects of our lives. Therefore, the spirit, I believe, is lurking among the following catalogue of training courses and annual gatherings.

## **GENESIS<sup>1</sup>**

In the early 1970s in Milford, Ohio, a small group of lay people, who had benefited greatly from internship in spiritual direction in the Jesuit Spirituality Centre in Milford, developed a training programme. The programme was primarily for lay people. It was based on Ignatian spirituality and drew on the practice of non-directive counselling. The programme was called the Art of Spiritual Companionship (ASPC).

In 1983 Fr. Myles O'Reilly, a Jesuit, was on sabbatical and undertook the ASPC programme. Over drinks one evening he was struck by the enthusiasm of a number of lay people for Ignatian spirituality. They were training lay spiritual companions beside, but not in the Spirituality Centre. Myles was on sabbatical from Tabor House, in Milltown, Dublin. Tabor had little in the way of training to offer the people associated with it. Myles, therefore, asked Mary Kay Murray to send a team to Ireland to give the course in Greenacres in Kilmacud, Co. Dublin. The location was made available by Sr. Rosemary Alexander, a sister of the Religious of Christian Education. Rosemary had agreed to intern as a teacher on the programme. Myles and Rosemary were the founding father and mother of Anamcharadas.

## **EARLY PROGRAMMES**

In the summer of 1984 Julie Murray and Elmar arrived to give the ASPC course to sixteen people. Rosemary and Myles were interns. Comments and memories from those who attended that first programme were as follows:

- the sense of commitment of the team was impressive,
- the Americans were very open and placed great emphasis on experience,
- a personal journey from head living to experience,
- a catalyst,
- a movement from law to love.

In the summer of 1985 Myles and Rosemary were joined by three interns: Ms. Rosaleen Maguire, Ms. Eibhlin Breathnach (RIP), and Ms. Mary Pat O'Gorman from the first programme. Supervision of the team was provided by a Jesuit, Fr. Gerry Hair, and the ASPC team. This was the first programme to travel under the name of Anamcharadas. The name was chosen to mark the "greening" of the American programme, and to link in to the ancient Celtic tradition of soul friendship (anam charadas). Twenty two people took part in this programme. Participants made the following comments:

- it bridged the divide between faith and life,
- after the intensive summer a sense of relief and exhaustion,
- an experience of life coming together.

A time of consolidation of the ministry took place in 1986.

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<sup>1</sup> This part and some of the following part are based on notes made by the author at the time, of an account of the history of Anamcharadas given by Myles at the Annual General Meeting in Corduff, north Dublin, on Sunday, 16 September, 1990, with comments from those present who had been trained on the different courses. A version of this appeared in the Summer 1991 Anamcharadas Newsletter.

In the summer of 1987, Myles, Rosemary, Eibhlin and Mary Pat were joined by Ms. Margaret Quinn, Mr. Jim Gibney and Ms. Rene Lysaght as interns. There were nineteen participants. Among the comments made by graduates of that programme were the following:

- real faith stories were told,
- an embarrassment at my own giftedness,
- a journey in, rather than a journey out to a foreign country that summer,
- one foot forward on the journey,
- subversive,
- binding with people,
- the first time I faced myself – exciting,
- ripe and ready although fearful,
- just be with Jesus because God is interested in all areas of my life,
- a diversity of participants on a common journey,
- a sacred experience of listening.

The 1987 summer programme began with a weekend on 19-21 June, and then got into a rhythm of three hours on Monday and Wednesday evenings and three hours on Saturday mornings (with two Saturdays free) and supervision on Saturday afternoon. It finished on Wednesday 7 August. It was a very intense experience for team and participants. On 7 November 1987 there was an advanced listening skills workshop for the 1987 programme.

Eibhlin Breathnach wrote an article entitled ASPC for the Irish Jesuit province at Myles request. It stated that the programme:

- reinforced theory by practice and interiorised it through reflection,
- was based on the spiritual exercises,
- used parallel contemporary psychological models as well.

In the programme there was:

- individual supervision of participants,
- reading of articles, reflecting on them and sharing from that reflection,
- talks,
- role-plays, and
- listening triads.

The essential “lessons” of the programme have been maintained over the years. However, each new training team reviews the readings and selects more up to date articles or chapters from books, where this improves the relevance of the material. Other articles have stood the test of time and remain unchanged. The programme itself develops organically each time it is given. It changes and deepens as it endeavours to remain as life-giving as possible for participants. After each session of the programme the team review and record helpful comments for the next team. These records are kept in hard covered notebooks, variously referred to as the “green book” or the “red book” as the case may be. A major strength of the programme is its experiential nature, and “real-plays” rather than “role-plays” are used to teach. These are based on real experiences of the teachers, but edited and transposed to illustrate the point being taught. The team is itself supervised on a regular basis by an outside facilitator. In these sessions, team process is the focus. This ensures that team issues do not get in the way of the teaching. It also permits the team to maintain a reflective or contemplative stance and model this for participants.

On 26-28 February, 1988 Fr. Bill Connolly S.J. (co-author of *The Practice of Spiritual Direction*) and Sr. Madeleine Birmingham gave a weekend for spiritual directors in Mount St. Anne's, Portarlington. This was the second weekend given by them in Ireland.

Other ongoing training for anamchairde included John Byrne on the Bible and human experience on 21 February, 1988, and Sr. Grace Jordan on 8-9 June, 1988 in the evenings on desire and imaging respectively. Grace provided a further input for all anamchairde on 20 November, 1988 on images of bright longing and dark longing in prayer. Mr. Domhnall Casey, a psychologist and psychosynthesis practitioner gave an input on depression on 10 February, 1989. Eibhlin Breathnach gave an input on feminist spirituality and spiritual direction of women on 3 March, 1989. A weekend on the body was given by Hymie Wise on 14-16 April, 1989

In the summer of 1989 (June 9 - July 29), due in no small part to Rene's powers of persuasion, the team moved out of Greenacres in Dublin to the Loreto College, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath. Myles, Rosemary, Rene and Eibhlin were assisted by four interns: Ms. Mags Mooney, Sr. Helen Power, Sr. Uainin Clarke and Fr. Andy Doyle. There were eighteen participants. Comments from the participants were as follows:

- the time was right,
- discovery of gifts I thought I did not have,
- there is something sacred in being human,
- in the triads an example of God's presence, where two or three are gathered in the divine name,
- a bonding to others and opening of self,
- the power of listening to and being listened to, the power of change,
- wholeness, inner freedom and peace.

This programme took place on Friday and Monday nights and on the Saturday.

On 25-27 August, 1989 a number of anamchairde attended a weekend retreat workshop entitled "Neo-Ignatian Spirituality – Feminist Issues" given by Ms. Julie M. Murray, one of the founders of the Art of Spiritual Companionship programme, Director of the internship programme for spiritual direction in the Jesuit Renewal Centre, Milford, Ohio, and first teacher of the ASPC programme in Ireland. As there were strong women role models in the training teams of Anamcharadas from the beginning, the issues raised at the weekend were not new to the anamchairde who participated.

On 17 February, 1990, Fr. Eamon Bredin gave anamchairde a day in Maynooth on Jesus – His message and ministry. Later in 1990 there was a day of reflection entitled "Searching for God in forest and hillside" facilitated by Colm Lavelle. At the end of May a supervision training weekend for existing supervisors was organised led by a Jesuit, Fr. Tom McGrath.

On 26 January, 1990 the programme moved to Corduff, north Dublin, with an opening weekend retreat in Chrysalis, Donard, Co. Wicklow. This was followed by training on Tuesday nights and alternate Saturdays, with a final weekend on 4-5 May. There were 26 participants. Ongoing training took place from October, 1990 to March 1991. This included the participants working on a week of guided prayer in Corduff in

Advent, 1990 and again in Lent, 1991. Myles, Rosemary, Helen, Mags and Andy were joined by two interns: Ms. Jo Bannon and Mr. Seamus Walsh. Three supervisors assisted on the Saturdays: Ms. Suzanne Igoe, Ms. Rene Lysaght, and Ms. Vera Price. Other anamchairde came on six occasions to companion participants on the course. Participants said:

- other activities were temporarily on hold,
- feelings in themselves are neither good nor bad,
- God accepts us in anger and darkness,
- the power of the journal,
- people need listening to,
- I cannot solve other people's problems for them,
- God is in all aspects of life and not just in prayer,
- Corduff is a special place of homecoming,
- integrating experience,
- being stretched to love more in my life.

Among a number of weeks of guided prayer facilitated by anamchairde or organised by Anamcharadas were ones at Dundrum national school, Dublin, on 7-11 March, 1988, 8-14 October, 1989 in Chrysalis, Donard, Co Wicklow, Loreto Hall (University Church), St Stephen's Green on 25-31 March, 1990, St Joseph's Parish, Ballymun (prior to April, 1989), Mullingar and Tullamore on 1-6 April, 1990, and Dowdstown House, Navan 13-18 May, 1990. Myles also used anamchairde as listeners on the Saturday of his bereavement weekends in Tabor House (e.g. 1 April, 1989) and in an AA / Al. Anon. weekend on 8 and 9 September, 1989 at the same location. On the second and fourth Sundays of Advent four anamchairde (Sr. Uainin Clarke, Ms. Rene Lysaght, Sr. Helen Power and Ms. Marion Slavin) facilitated an Advent Programme in Birr, Co. Offaly.

## **STRUCTURES**

Up to 1988 the main activity of Anamcharadas was providing a training programme, and everything was organised by the training team. However, while the focus was on training for ministry there was also a secondary focus on supporting a community. This became more onerous as the numbers grew so a day workshop facilitated by Mr. Ted Fleming was held on 11 June, 1988 in Greenacres. Fifteen anamchairde attended. Only four of the initial group of sixteen trained were present. The fall-off in attendance at Anamcharadas events seems to be a perennial issue in Anamcharadas. Further perennial issues which surfaced then were:

- a perception of an "A" team and a "B" team,
- lack of companions,
- how people were selected and by whom for ventures,
- hassle of meetings versus a desire for nourishment.

Six working groups were asked to draft discussion papers for a further plenary meeting on 8 October. The names of the teams and the volunteers appear in Appendix 1. Twenty three people attended on 8 October. Initial structures were established. On 13 June, 1989 Sr. Anne Kavanagh facilitated a meeting which included consideration of a draft vision statement. Anne has facilitated each and every annual gathering since then. A further meeting took place on 27 June, 1989. The first AGM of

Anamcharadas took place on 15 October, 1989 at SVD House, Moyglare Road, Maynooth, Co. Kildare. At that meeting the still current vision statement and structures for the following three years were adopted.

The second AGM took place in the Community School Corduff on 16 September, 1990 and the history of the movement to date was recounted and celebrated. Ms. Helen Costello gave an account of the Celtic tradition of soul friendship from her thesis on Anamcharadas.<sup>2</sup> With structures in place and a thesis written Anamcharadas had become established.

## **GROWTH**

In response to calls for a refresher training programme for those who had grown rusty in their skills through lack of practice, such a programme in six sessions from 14 February to 21 March, 1991, was offered. Only four people signed up, so the programme did not run. Instead those interested joined the ongoing programme in Corduff. A retreat in 1991 was also cancelled because of a lack of Anamcharadas volunteers to work on it.

Myles ran a training course for twelve people in Belfast, which finished in March, 1991. He was assisted by two non-anamchairde, a Jesuit priest, Finbarr Lynch and Sr. Dympna Daly.

The annual gathering in 1991 was held in Corduff on 15 September and a regional structure was established, with groups in Belfast, Corduff, Dublin and Mullingar. This meeting was marked by its energy. More than forty people attended. On 16 November, 1991 the Gerald May (Shalem) model of group supervision was explained in Greenacres to twelve participants. The presentation included a one hour taped session and a live session. Five members set up a group for ongoing supervision. In 1992 Mullingar and Belfast also explored the Gerald May supervision model.

On 6-8 March, 1992 Bill Connolly and Madeleine Birmingham gave an advanced workshop for spiritual directors in Chrysalis. Helen Costello wrote an article on Anamcharadas, which was published in *Intercom*, the magazine for priests, in June, 1992.

On 12 June, 1992, 21 people started a summer training programme in Navan. Andy Doyle, Mags Mooney and Helen Power were the teachers, and Terry Ball, Grace Fayne, Cinnie Moran and Noleen Quinn were the interns. Myles ran a second Belfast programme for twelve people including one Protestant participant from the Shankill.

At the annual gathering on 13 September, 1992 in Corduff there was a presentation and reflection by the Maranatha community as well as business. The idea of a presentation was followed through in the annual gathering on 3 October, 1993 in Navan. Mr. Jim Cotter of the Cairns network in Sheffield was brought over by Anamcharadas to address the gathering.

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<sup>2</sup> Helen Costello, "Anamcharadas" a thesis under the subject Leadership and Praxis, in the Graduate Diploma in Humanities: Holistic Development, 31 March, 1990, All Hallows College, Dublin.

In the Easter 1994 newsletter a survey of all members undertaken by Myles in August 1992 was summarised. It was based on 66 replies. Average significance in the person's life of the training out of 10 was above 8. Just over half were in companioning at the time of the survey. A similar proportion were companioning others. The 35 people who were companioning were companioning a total of 102 people. A staggering 70% had helped in a week of guided prayer, partly accounted for by the fact that the Corduff group had undertaken two such weeks as part of their on-going training. Just over half were in a support group. Half had been in companioning before their initial training. 23% were in a supervision group. 30% had given training to others. 42% had availed of ongoing training, with an identical proportion stating that their interest in Anamcharadas was increasing. Just under a quarter stated that their interest in Anamcharadas was decreasing, with almost the same proportion saying they had left Anamcharadas because they were too busy. 15% of the total intended to be companioned or to companion, even though they had not done so to date. This level of activity was distinctive. In the United States it has been suggested that as many as 70% of participants in spiritual direction programmes never formally practice direction, but do use the training for other purposes.<sup>3</sup>

A training programme took place in Greenacres in Dublin from January to May, 1994 with eleven participants and six team. The teachers were Helen Power and Cinnie Moran and the interns were Ms. Catherine Boylan, Mr. Greg Heylin, Ms. Anne Kelly and Ms. Patricia Leahy. This was the first training programme not to have a priest on the team. There were two Jesuits among the participants. The ongoing training with eight participants and five team took place from October to December. The 1994 annual gathering took place in Rathmore Convent, Belfast on 2 October, with an inspirational input by Eibhlin Breathnach on shadow, sin and salvation.

The 1995 annual gathering devoted the entire day to reflection on Anamcharadas. It took place on 1 October, in the Mercy International Centre, Baggot St. Dublin. The Belfast group sent a message to the annual gathering that they had formally closed.

In the January/February 1996 edition of *Spirituality*, Ms. Anne Marie Lee had an article published, entitled "In Search of a Soul Friend".

A teachers meeting on 4 February 1996 gave rise to a list of suggestions for finding companions which was published in the next newsletter. People worth contacting to offer one's services included:

- the parish sister,
- the local Bethany group,
- participants in the Pastoral Ministry course in All Hallows,
- participants in the Crosscare Personal Development Course,
- members of the parish council,
- established prayer groups in a parish or college,

It was suggested that people could photocopy the Anamcharadas leaflet and follow up with personal contact. Weeks of guided prayer were recommended, with an encouragement to participants to follow up with ongoing companioning. Weekends

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<sup>3</sup> Susan Loretta, "The 70% Factor and Two-track Training", in *Presence: An International Journal of Spiritual Direction*, 9, No. 2 (2003).

and days of reflection on following the spirit in one's life run by anamchairde were also suggested. Temporary companionship during Lent or Advent was another possibility. The importance of informal companionship in the workplace or the family was emphasised. Finally there was a caution about becoming concerned about numbers as spiritual companionship is a charism. The issue of finding companions seems to crop up again and again.

In March 1996 a group from North Dublin took part in a week of guided prayer in Halston St. parish, Dublin.

Reflecting a church wide concern Anamcharadas members in Dublin had for some time been discussing the issue of confidentiality and child abuse in the companionship context. On 14 September, 1996 Fr. Mike Drennan spoke to Anamchairde on child sexual abuse, in Greenacres, Dublin.

The annual gathering in 1996 took place on 6 October in Loreto College, Mullingar. Kevin Egan was the inspirational speaker.

## **A TIME OF QUESTIONING**

All twenty four teachers and interns were invited to a teachers' meeting on 2 February, 1997. Ten attended at Gort Muire in Dublin on the day. There was a strong sense of inertia in relation to taking on another training programme, though a programme over an academic year sounded more attractive to those present. On the question of getting companions it was the general belief that this was a matter of quiet attraction, and that God would send them.

Sensing a lack of energy in Anamcharadas the Initial Training Team wrote to all members and asked each one to have a companionship session about their relationship with Anamcharadas prior to the annual gathering in 1997. Suggested questions were included in the request. The annual gathering took place in Mulhuddart, Dublin on 5 October, 1997. Thirty two members took part in a reflective day. It was not possible to conclude the process on the day. A further meeting was called for 14 December in the same place. Twenty one members attended. After a busy and sometimes contentious meeting groups were set up to develop a renewal programme, and to consider an initial training programme. Seven people took part in a three session renewal programme in the Spring of 1998 provided by Clare Gill and Cinnie Moran.

The morning of the 1998 annual gathering was facilitated by Rev. Martin McAnaney, focussing on the story of Anamcharadas. Business, facilitated by Anne Kavanagh, took place in the afternoon. The gathering took place on 18 October in Navan. There was a sense at this meeting of light at the end of the tunnel.

## **RENEWED ENERGY**

A training programme began in September, 1999 for an academic year, one weekend a month. The teachers were Ms. Cinnie Moran, and Fr. Myles O'Reilly, with Sr. Regina Campbell and Ms. Clare Gill as interns. The training took place in the Loreto

Centre, Crumlin, Dublin. There were eleven participants. Further training was provided in October 2000.

About twenty members attended the annual gathering for 1999 in Gort Muire, Dublin on 17 October. The inspirational element was provided by Pauline McGrath.

Bill Connolly and Madeleine Birmingham gave a further workshop for experienced spiritual directors in Greenacres, Dublin on 25-28 April and 1-4 May, 2000. Twenty people, not all anamchairde, attended.

The first annual gathering of the new millennium was hosted by Mullingar on 22 October, 2000, in Glendalough, Co Wicklow. Fr. Michael Rodgers led a pilgrimage through Glendalough in the morning.

A meeting of nine teachers and interns took place on 26 November, 2000, facilitated by Anne Kavanagh in Gort Muire Dublin.

The 2001 annual gathering took place in All Hallows Dublin on 21 October. Thirty five members heard Sean Goan present a scriptural reflection on bread. At the meeting an accreditation proposal for membership of Anamcharadas, drafted by the Initial Training Team in consultation with the teachers, was accepted. Proposals on accreditation for teachers and setting up a training programme were noted by the annual gathering. Sadly Rosemary Alexander the co-founder of Anamcharadas resigned from the Initial Training Team (now renamed ARC), due to ill health.

At least ten anamchairde attended the inaugural meeting of the All Ireland Spiritual Guidance Association in Milltown Park, Dublin on 27 April, 2002. There were a total of 263 people in attendance.

On 6 October, 2002 the annual gathering took place in Bellinter House, Navan. The inspiration piece in the afternoon was provided by Maria Janssen, a Church of Ireland curate and trained anamchara. It was noted that Anamcharadas had arrived in cyberspace, with its own website<sup>4</sup> created by Paddy Pender and approved by AIRC. It is possible for people to send their phone numbers to the website, with a view to someone ringing them to discuss Anamcharadas and being companioned.

In response to concerns at the previous annual gathering about the power to admit people to training programmes and thus to Anamcharadas, selection guidelines for people applying for Anamcharadas training were drafted by AIRC and comments were requested at the annual gathering, 2002. The key to the guidelines was their setting in a prayerful, contemplative and discerning context.

In 2003 the date of the annual gathering was 4 October, a Saturday. The gathering had been on a Sunday up to this point. It took place in Mount St Anne's, Killenard, Portarlington, Co. Laois. Anne Alcock provided the input in the afternoon. Telephone guidelines for dealing with internet contacts were prepared by AIRC and noted at the annual gathering. No-one had contacted the site to date.

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<sup>4</sup> Initially the web site was at <http://homepage.eircom.net/~anamcharadas/> and the email was [anamcharadas@eircom.net](mailto:anamcharadas@eircom.net), the current web address is [www.anamcharadas.com](http://www.anamcharadas.com)

On 8 May, 2004 Clare Gill had organised an input for all anamchairde by Mr. Gerry Moore on male spirituality. It was held in Bushy Park House, Dublin, where Rosemary Alexander now lived. After the input other members of Anamcharadas appeared for a surprise presentation to Rosemary. It consisted of a sculpture entitled *Resurrection Morning*, a monetary gift of €275 and a book containing individual wishes and tributes to Rosemary, which Clare had arranged in a booklet. Rosemary appreciated the gesture.

The 2004 annual gathering took place again in Mount St. Anne's, this time on 2 October. Mr. Tony Bates, psychologist, media contributor and author, who was trained on the Anamcharadas programme in 1984, provided the inspirational input. His topic was mindfulness and the madness of depression.

A two year training programme began in October, 2004 in the Loreto Centre, Crumlin. It consisted of eight weekends a year, October to May, and was completed in May, 2006. The teachers were Clare Gill, Greg Heylin, Cinnie Moran and Myles O'Reilly, and the interns were Sr. Marie Carr and Ms. Paddy Pender. There were twelve participants in the first year and eleven in the second year.

In the summer 2005 newsletter there was a first reference to Spiritual Directors International, based in the US, but with a worldwide membership. On 1 October, 2005 the annual gathering returned to Mount St. Anne's. It was agreed that the new members in 2006 would co-ordinate the annual gathering for 2007. This was communicated to the trainees at their October, 2005 training weekend. Gerry Moore gave the inspirational piece on male soul.

## **THE FUTURE**

Fr. Paddy Greene, a Jesuit, did some work on dreams at the 2006 annual gathering in Mount St. Anne's on 14 October. The new members were welcomed and spoke of the power of the programme for them. For a second year it was not possible to find representatives for AIRC. However, on 18 January, 2007 as agreed by the annual gathering a teachers meeting was held in the Gresham Hotel, Dublin attended by seven teachers and interns. Paddy Pender and Myles O'Reilly agreed to begin work on a new training programme from January, 2008. Others are willing to provide support of various kinds.

The next annual gathering will take place in the Dominican Retreat Centre, Tallaght Village, Dublin on 29 September, 2007, God willing.

**{ APPENDICES FOLLOW }**

## **APPENDIX 1**

### **VOLUNTEERS FOR STRUCTURES**

#### **Initial working groups, June, 1988**

##### **Training**

Training Team

##### **Matching (of companions and companionees)**

Training Team

##### **Expeditions (for ministry)**

Rosemary Alexander, Greg Heylin, Margaret Quinn

##### **Continuing Training**

Tom Larkin, Rene Lysaght, Mary Pat O’Gorman, Helen Power

##### **Communications**

Anne Marie Horan, Maureen O’Donoghue

##### **Finance**

Uainin Clarke, Marion Slavin

#### **Volunteers October, 1988**

##### **Ongoing Training**

Uainin Clarke, Helen Power, Vera Price

##### **Expeditions**

Rosemary Alexander

#### **Volunteers from 1989 on**

##### **Initial Training Team**

1989-90: Rosemary Alexander, Rene Lysaght, Myles O’Reilly

1991-95: Rosemary Alexander, Mags Mooney, Myles O’Reilly, Helen Power, Seamus Walsh

1996-98 (elected by the annual gathering for a three year term from teachers and interns willing to stand): teachers: Myles O’Reilly, Mags Mooney, interns: Terry Ball, Jo Bannon, Greg Heylin

1999-2001: Rosemary Alexander (to 2001 annual gathering), Myles O’Reilly, Helen Power, interns: Terry Ball, Greg Heylin, Catherine Boylan (from 2001 annual gathering)

**Renamed ARC at annual gathering 2001**

**Renamed AIRC at annual gathering 2002**

2002-04: Teachers: Clare Gill, Myles O'Reilly, Helen Power, interns: Terry Ball, Catherine Boylan

**Steering Committee**

1989: Mary Fagan, Greg Heylin, Anne Marie Horan, Rene Lysaght, with floating representation from the Onongo Training Team, Outreach and Finance.

1990: Rosemary Alexander, Madeleine Fitzpatrick, Greg Heylin, Anne Marie Horan, Suzanne Igoe, Mags Mooney, Seamus Walsh / Helen Costello.

**Renamed Co-ordinating Group at annual gathering 1991**

1991: Regional contacts: Jim Fallon (Dublin), Mareen Gribben (Belfast), Kitty McGonagle (Mullingar) and Noeleen Quinn (Corduff).

1992: Helen Costello (Finance), Grace Fayne (Corduff), Maureen Gribben (Belfast), Greg Heylin (Communications), Teresa McCullough (Mullingar), Mags Mooney (Initial Training), Cinnie Moran (Dublin), Margaret Murray (Navan)

1993: Helen Costello (Finance), Grace Fayne (Corduff), Nuala Prince (Belfast), Jeanette Gacoigne (Communications), Teresa McCullough (Mullingar), Myles O'Reilly (Initial Training), Aodh Caomhanach (Dublin), Hannah Clarke (Navan)

1994: Catherine Boylan (Finance), Nuala Prince (Belfast), Jeanette Gacoigne (Communications), Terry Ball (Mullingar), Myles O'Reilly (Initial Training), Maureen O'Donoghue (Dublin), Josephine Sinnott (Navan)

1995: Catherine Boylan (Finance), Mary Ryan / Marie Ivers (North Dublin), Nuala Cosgrove (Communications), Terry Ball (Mullingar), Maureen O'Donoghue (Dublin), Ethna Fitzsimons (Navan)

1996: Ethna Fitzsimons (Finance and Navan), Jo Bannon / Monica Shannon (North Dublin), Monica Shannon (Communications), Kitty McGonagle (Mullingar), Anne Marie Horan (Dublin)

1997: Ethna Fitzsimons (Finance) Josephine Sinnott (Navan), rotation (North Dublin), Anne Marie Horan (Communications), Kitty McGonagle (Mullingar), Clare Gill (Dublin)

1998: Ethna Fitzsimons (Finance) Josephine Sinnott (Navan), Carmel Kelly (North Dublin), Kitty McGonagle (Mullingar), Clare Gill (Dublin), Terry Ball (Initial Training Team)

1999: Kathleen Kennedy (Finance), Jo Bannon (North Dublin), Teresa McCullough (Mullingar), Maureen O'Donoghue (Dublin), Greg Heylin (Initial Training Team)

2000: Kathleen Kennedy (Finance) Nuala Cosgrove (Navan), Monica Shannon (North Dublin), Teresa McCullough (Mullingar), Maureen O'Donoghue / Anne Marie Horan (Dublin and Communications), Greg Heylin (Initial Training Team)

2001: Kathleen Kennedy (Finance) Ethna Fitzsimons (Navan), Monica Shannon and others (North Dublin), Teresa McCullough (Mullingar), Anne Marie Horan (Dublin), Nuala Cosgrove (Communications), Greg Heylin (ARC)

2002: Kathleen Kennedy (Finance) Hannah Clarke (Navan), Monica Shannon (North Dublin), Kitty McGonagle (Mullingar), Anne Marie Horan (Dublin), Paddy Pender (Communications), Catherine Boylan (AIRC)

2003: Kathleen Kennedy (Finance) Hannah Clarke (Navan), Kitty McGonagle (Mullingar), Cinnie Moran (Dublin), Paddy Pender (Communications), Catherine Boylan (AIRC)

2004: Ethna Fitzsimons (Navan), Teresa McCullough (Mullingar), Paddy Pender (Communications), Catherine Boylan (AIRC)

#### **Renamed Communications Group at annual gathering 2005**

2005: Teresa Mc Cullough (Mullingar), Maureen O'Donoghue (Dublin), Monica Shannon (North Dublin), Paddy Pender (Newsletter)

2006: Teresa Mc Cullough (Mullingar), Ethna Fitzsimons (Navan), Maureen O'Donoghue (Dublin), Monica Shannon (North Dublin), Paddy Pender (Newsletter), Kathleen Crowley and Michelle Sinnott (New Group)

#### **Communications**

1989: Anne Marie Horan, Maureen O'Donoghue, Darina O'Rourke

1990: Aodh Caomhanach, Anne Marie Horan, Maureen O'Donoghue, Darina O'Rourke

1991: Aodh Caomhanach, Anne Marie Horan, Patricia Leahy, Maureen O'Donoghue

1992: Greg Heylin, Patricia Leahy, Maureen O'Donoghue, with additional typing by Mary Ryan and Noeleen Quinn.

1993-4: Jeanette Gascoigne with Belfast group.

1995: Nuala Cosgrove, Anne Marie Lee, Sheila Lanigan

1996: Susan Dowling, Noeleen Quinn, Monica Shannon

1997: Anne Marie Horan (to send out communications)

1998: Anne Kelly with Clare Gill providing liaison with the co-ordinating group

1999-2000: Anne Marie Horan, Maureen O'Donoghue, Mary Ryan

2001: Nuala Cosgrove

2002 to date: Paddy Pender (including website)

### **Finance**

1989-91: Helen Costello, Seamus Walsh

1992: Helen Costello, Mags Mooney, Vera Price

1993-5: Helen Costello, Catherine Boylan

1996-8: Ethna Fitsimons

1999-2003: Kathleen Kennedy

2004 to date: Regina Campbell

### **Public Relations**

1999: Mags Mooney, assisted by Jo Bannon, Greg Heylin, Helen Power

2000: Nuala Cosgrove, Clare Gill

### **Phone replies to web queries**

Rene Lysaght and Catherine Sinnott were appointed by AIRC in 2004

Clare Gill was appointed by the annual gathering 2006, and those available for companioning were to contact her.

### **Ongoing Training Team**

1989: Ann Maria Dunne, Tom Larkin, Roisin O'Leary

1990: Helen Costello, Anne Marie Dunne, Tom Larkin, Mags Mooney, Mullingar contact: Rene Lysaght, Corduff contact: Carmel Kelly

### **Outreach**

1989: Liz Garvey, Suzanne Igoe, Theresa McCullough, Kitty McGonagle, Margaret Quinn.

1990: Mary Dooley, Jim Fallon, Madeleine Fitzpatrick, Rene Lysaght, Monica Shannon

## **Facilitators of annual gatherings and initial organisational meetings**

1988: Ted Fleming

1989 to date: Anne Kavanagh

## **APPENDIX 2**

### **NUMBERS ON THE ANAMCHARADAS ADDRESS LIST (all are trained anamchairde)**

October, 1988	38		
April, 1989	39		
September, 1989	56		
September, 1990	82		
Summer 1991	92		
13 November, 1995	124		
October, 1997	119		
		<b>SUBSCRIPTIONS</b>	
May, 2000	69	23	1999
May, 2001	81	30	2000
29 November, 2002	87		
14 November, 2005	87		
11 December, 2006	49		

## **APPENDIX 3**

### **DECEASED MEMBERS**

Bro. Aodh Caomhanach (19 February, 1998)

Deirdre (Dee) Lynch (May, 1998)

Eibhlin Breathnach (November, 2005)

Sr. Catherine Sinnott (17 December, 2005)