

**Welcome to Cleggan,**  
We hope you enjoy this guide to our beautiful village.  
Written & designed by the school children of  
Scoil Náisiúnta na Naomh Uille.



# CLEGGAN

‘Our History, Our Sense Of Place’

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S.N. NA NAOMH UILE



AN CLOIGEANN

## Introduction

Our school is named Scoil Náisiúnta na Naomh Uile, a two teacher school with fifteen pupils.

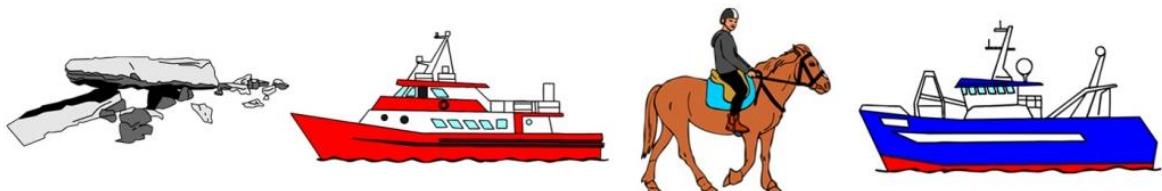
Cleggan is a small fishing village with majestic scenery of hills, islands and sandy beaches located in the west of Ireland. Well known for its fishing industry Cleggan is a place of history, culture and marine life. Gaelic football has been played in Cleggan since the 1900's. Cloigeann is the Irish name for Cleggan which means Headland.

*'In the past families depended heavily on fishing to survive, but nowadays only twenty percent of the population fish for a living'*

This project began with an Explorers Education programme™ visit, by Joanne Casserly from Galway Atlantaquaria, who visited our school on March 16th, 2016. She talked to us about life in Irish seas, we were very interested in what we heard and decided to do a Marine Project.

Following this visit we had a class discussion and agreed to form a number of groups with each one researching the following topics.

1. The History: People & Culture of Cleggan
2. Fishing in Cleggan Bay, Marine life, Science & Industry



*"Funding for this project was recieved under Local Agenda 21, through the department of the Environment, Heritage & local Government, Galway County Council"*





"As a visitor to Cleggan this book will enhance your visit. Try to see & do as much as possible and you will have many treasured memories from your visit to the West of Ireland"





## AN CLOIGEANN

### Cleggan & the Wild Atlantic Way

Cleggan has been chosen as a signature point along the Wild Atlantic Way.

*"The charming Connemara fishing village of Cleggan is the perfect place to chill and escape the hustle and bustle of daily life. At its heart is a busy harbour which is the departure point for the islands of Inishturk and Inishbofin"*

From the Wild Atlantic Way Website







# Historical Sites in Cleggan







## Cleggan Pier

Cleggan Pier was built by the Congested District Board in 1822. The engineers name was Alexander Nimmo.

The original pier used to be quite small, but has grown in size over the years.

By 1836 Cleggan had developed into a large fishing harbour.





## The Cleggan Court tombs

This Court tomb looks over Cleggan, directly across the bay.

The Second court tomb is located on Salerna Beach, these megalithic tombs are over 7000 years old!





*'The old Cleggan Napoleonic-era signal tower,  
reduced to rubble after a storm'*

An artist recreated the tower from old pictures



### The old Cleggan Napoleonic-era signal tower

Climb to the top of Cleggan Head where you can find the remains of a watchtower constructed during the Napoleonic wars.

*A signal from these towers could travel 1,076km around the coast of Ireland. Its average journey between stations was 13.5 km.*



# Fishing in Cleggan







## Fishing in Cleggan

Cleggan is known as the 'fishing village', it was this moniker that put Cleggan on the map.

Johnny King is one of the few people who make a living from fishing in Cleggan & caught the largest ever fish in Irish waters!







Here is the 'monster' being landed on Cleggan pier

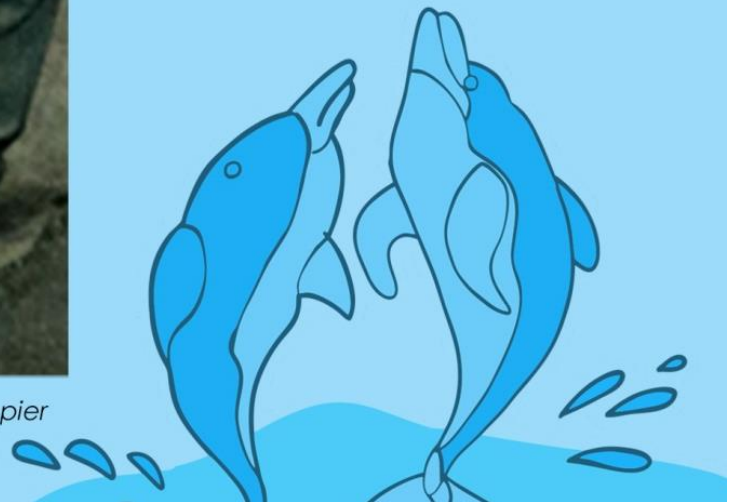
## Fishing in Cleggan

In Cleggan there are two types of fishing, one is for leisure & the other is for the fishing industry.

Lobster and crab are caught for the industry

Cod, Pollock & Mackerel are caught for leisure

You can book a deep sea fishing trip with Johnny King who caught a monster Blue Tuna on September 24, 2002.







## Fishing Nets

Nets have been around for thousands of years, the earliest known net is called 'the net of Altrea', it was from 8300 BC and was made of willow.

Paintings of nets have been found on ancient Egyptian tombs, and used to be made from grass and flax.

Nowadays nets are mostly made from nylon, silk or wool.

The fishermen of Cleggan use a wide variety of nets for fishing.



## Nets used in Cleggan

**The midwater net** - used to catch white fish, herring and mackerel

**The bottom trawl net** - used to catch cod, haddock, plaice, white sole and black sole

**The gill net** - used to catch most of the fish in the Sea

**The tangle net** - this net has floats and weights to make it stay at the bottom of the sea

**The ring net** - used to catch mackerel, sprat and herring

**The trammel net** - used to catch lobster and crab







*Cleggan memorial at the Village centre.*

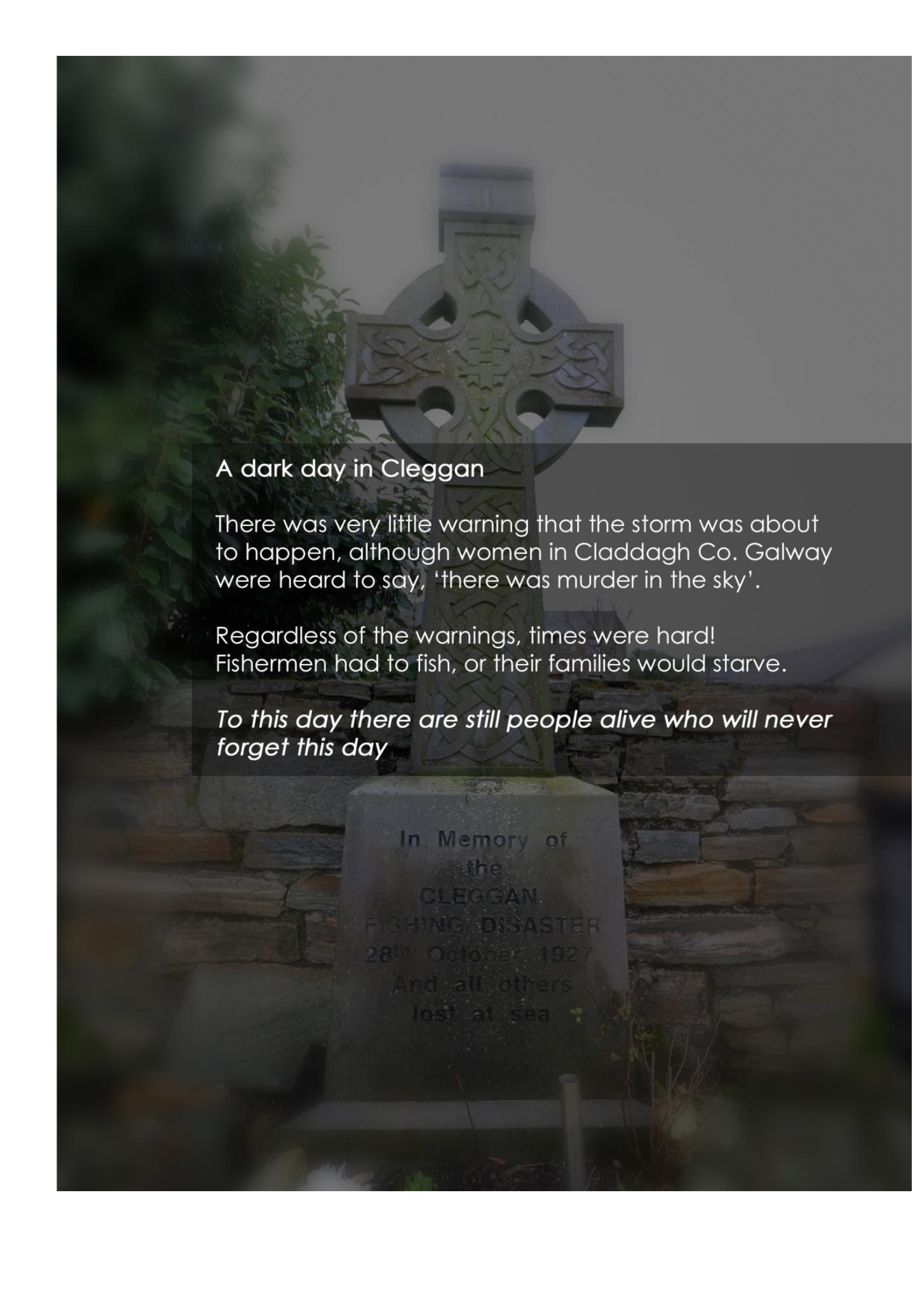
## Cleggan Rossadilisk & Inisbofin fishing tragedy

In 1927, there was a terrible storm on the Friday evening of the 28th of October. Nine men died from Inishbofin and sixteen from the mainland. Cleggan pier was destroyed by the storm.

The disaster put an end to drift net fishing and heavy row boats. All the families of the lost victims were devastated and their lives were ruined by this terrible event.

Micheal O'Tooles body was the only one recovered from the sea, while there was another body washed up on Achill island.





## A dark day in Cleggan

There was very little warning that the storm was about to happen, although women in Claddagh Co. Galway were heard to say, 'there was murder in the sky'.

Regardless of the warnings, times were hard! Fishermen had to fish, or their families would starve.

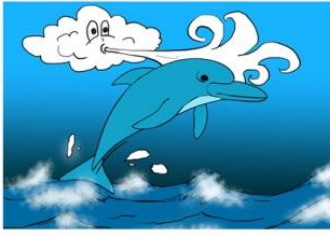
*To this day there are still people alive who will never forget this day*

In Memory of  
the  
CLEGGAN  
FISHING DISASTER  
28<sup>th</sup> October 1927  
And all others  
lost at sea



## The Pisreogs of Cleggan

Pisreogs are old sayings or 'Myths'. Every village along the Wild Atlantic Way would have its own variation or theme.



'Dolphins would signal windy weather'



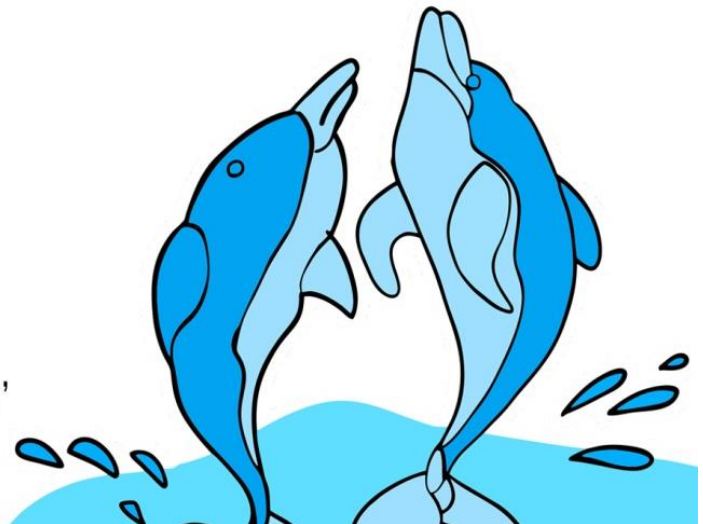
'It is unlucky to chase a cat away from a boat'



'A dog seen near fishing tackle is bad luck'

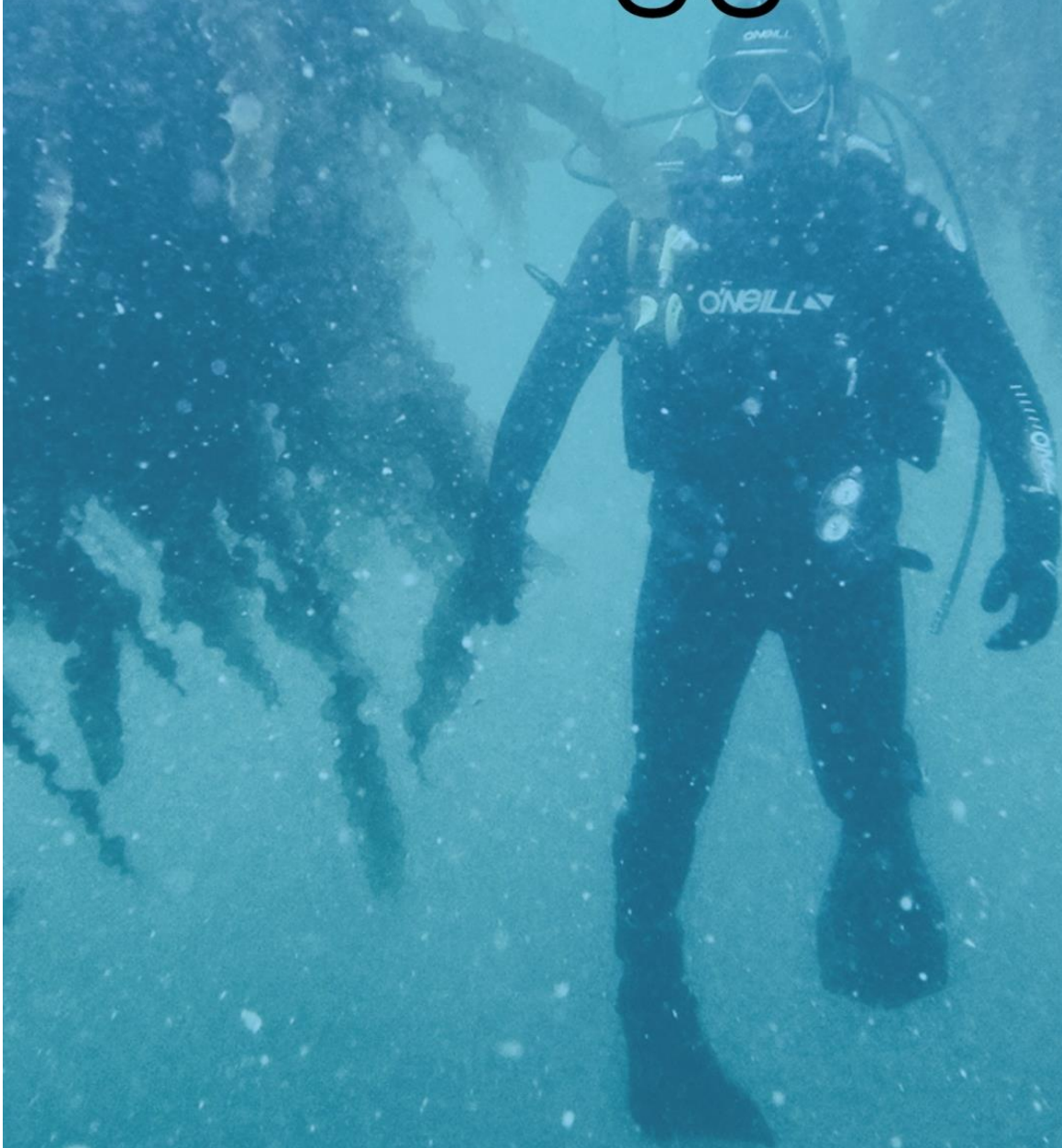


'It is bad luck to see an Albotross'





# Science & Seaweed of Cleggan

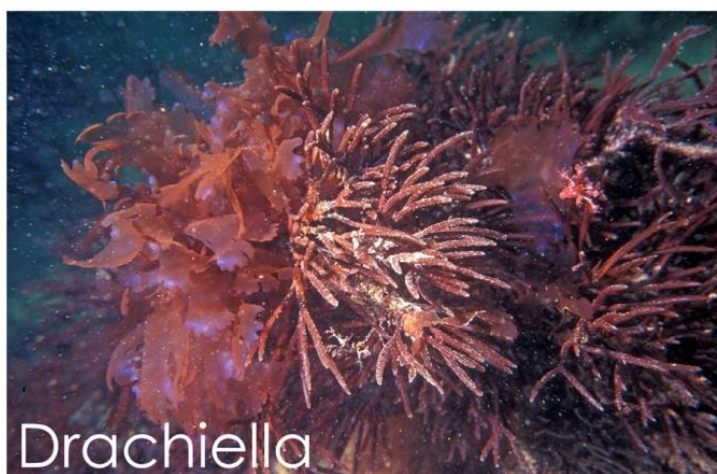






## The Science & Seaweed of Cleggan

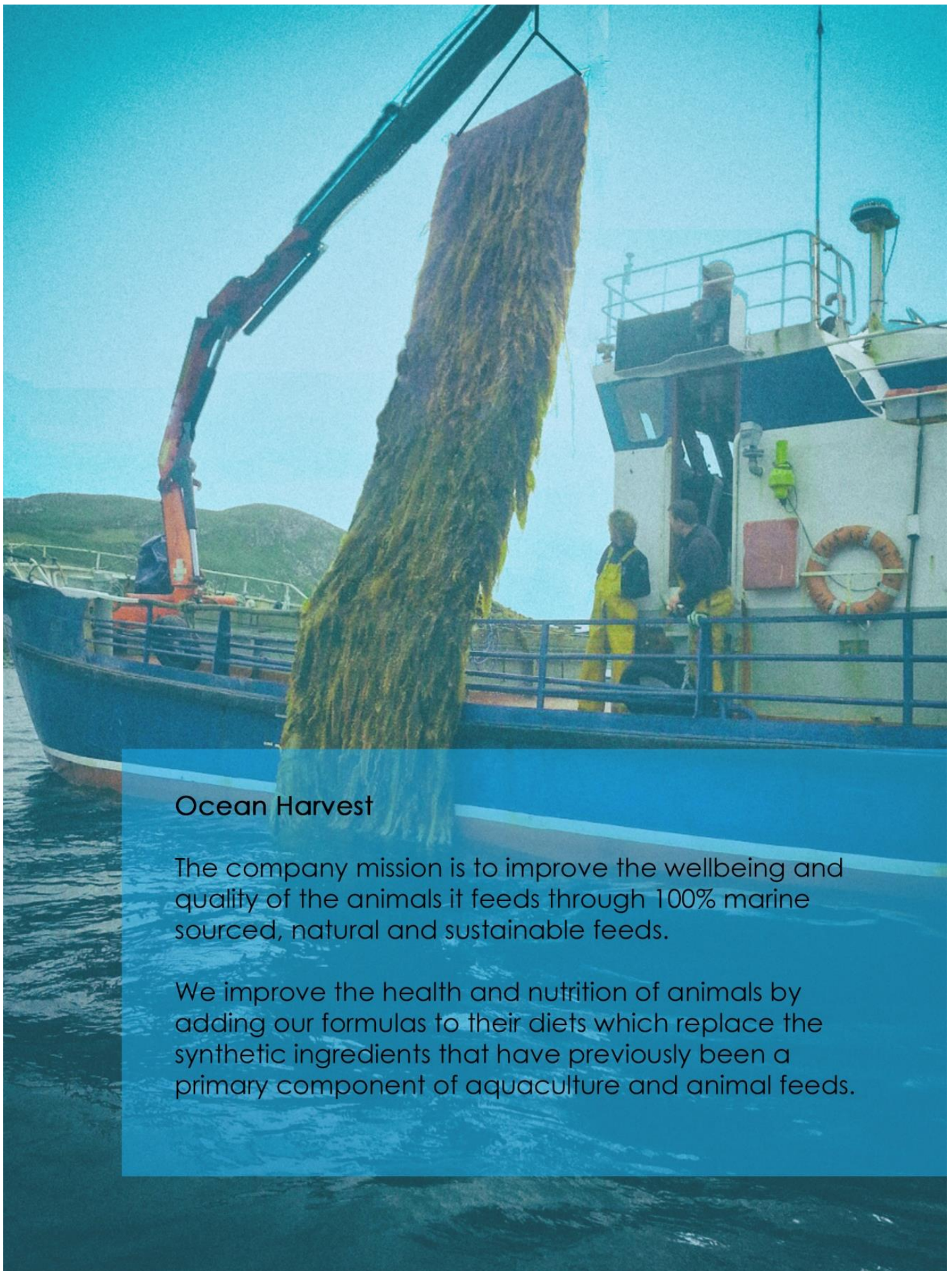
The Seaweed farm is in Cleggan, and it delivers its seaweed to the Ocean Harvest centre in Tuam.



Drachiella







## Ocean Harvest

The company mission is to improve the wellbeing and quality of the animals it feeds through 100% marine sourced, natural and sustainable feeds.

We improve the health and nutrition of animals by adding our formulas to their diets which replace the synthetic ingredients that have previously been a primary component of aquaculture and animal feeds.





## The Science & Seaweed of Cleggan

A small company called Ocean Harvest Technology established by Dr Stefan Kraan and Patrick Martin based in Milltown Co. Galway has been working with seaweeds and developing animal health products from seaweeds since 2010.

Part of the success stems from the seaweed farm in Cleggan and the hatchery in Connemara that Ocean Harvest Operates. Together it provides specific seaweeds that are used in the production adding specific bioactive compounds which lead to the success of their product range called Oceanfeed.

*Seaweeds have been associated with positive health benefits for centuries. First written records of seaweed being used for feed and food in Ireland date back to the 12th century.*



The background of the slide is a close-up photograph of seaweed underwater. The seaweed has long, dark green, wavy blades and some lighter green, more delicate fronds. Sunlight filters through the water, creating a dappled light effect on the seaweed. The overall color palette is dominated by various shades of green and blue.

## Where can seaweed take us in the future?

Currently there are many R&D project in the EU and globally using seaweeds for a variety of benefits.

1. Some examples are biodegradable plastic and certain plastic products are made from ingredients derived from seaweed
2. Water treatment, especially in the marine environment seaweed farms can absorb the excess nitrate and phosphate from land run off and recycle these important nutrients making them available for agriculture again.
3. Bio refineries; many projects look at the mass cultivation of seaweeds to produce bioethanol and other valuable products that are sustainable, remove carbon and have no impact on the environment
4. Specific bioactives in seaweeds have been discovered that have antibiotic, antiviral and anticancer properties and other health benefits. This is still an emerging science field, but already promising breakthroughs have been made.



# Marine life & Seabirds of Cleggan







## Animal life in Cleggan

Cleggans beautiful bay, sheltered harbour & sandy beaches offer a great environment for fish and other animals to thrive.

There is a whole host of Seabirds, fish, and crabs that come into the bay.

Here is a small list of the most popular sealife & birds that can be found in Cleggan.





### Marine life in Cleggan

Everyones favourite mammal is the Dolphin. Many of them swim into the bay of Cleggan, some chance coming up to the pier.

Shellfish & Crustaceans are also caught and eaten in Cleggan, including crab, Lobster & oyster.

Some large animals come into the bay, including the Squid, Ray and Seal.





### Grey Seal

Ron Mor

*Halichoerus Grypus*

**Size:** 2 to 2.5 metres.

**Food:** A variety of fish, crustaceans and cephalopods.

**Habitat:** Prefers areas of rocky coastline.



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### Tompot Blenny

Ceanruán Rocach

*Para blennius gattorugine*

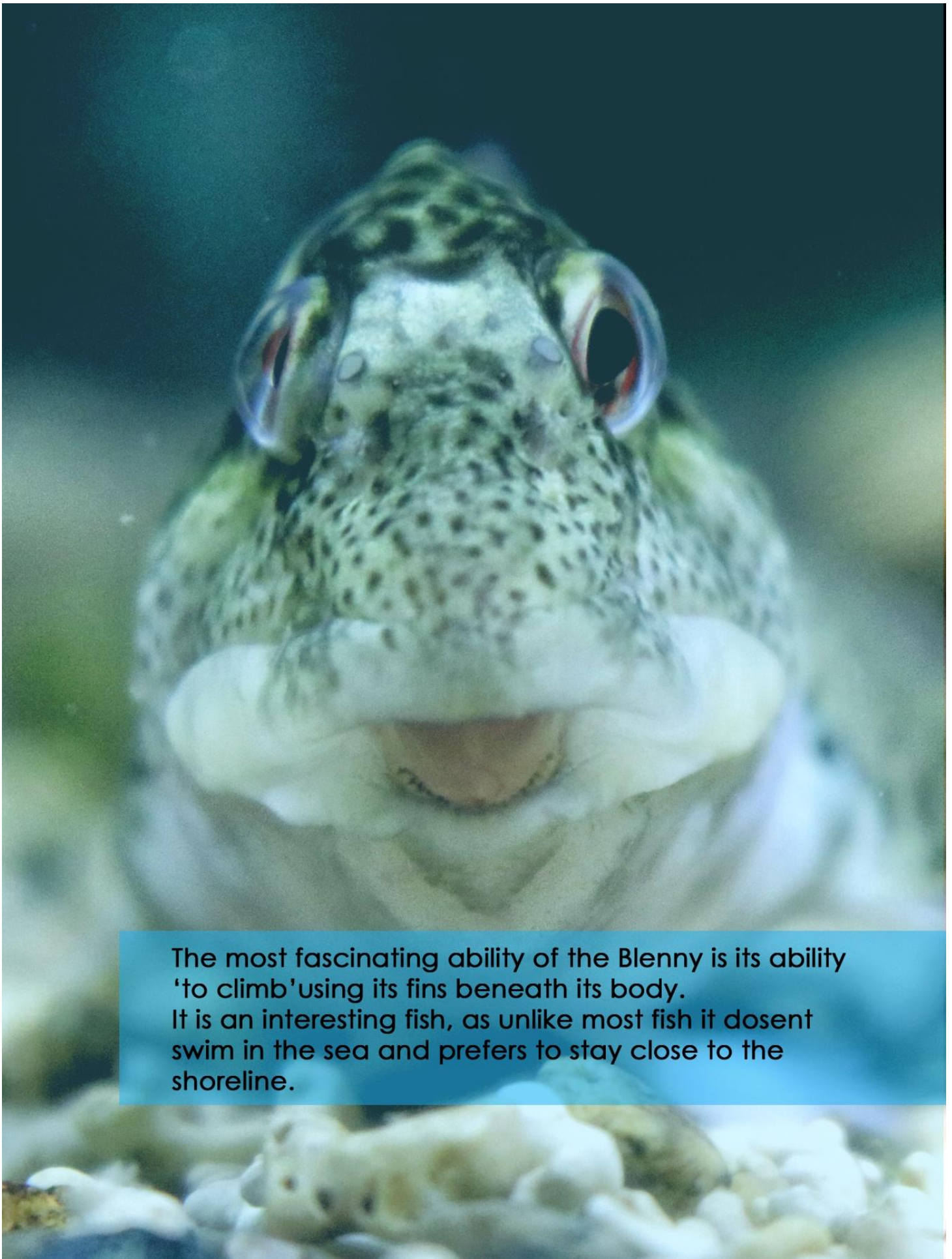
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**Size:** 30 cms.

**Food:** The powerful jaws are for crushing barnacles (the main diet), crabs and any other suitable food available. Behind the main teeth there is a pair of tall, sharp canine teeth at the side.

**Habitat:** They live on the seabed of rocky areas in shallow water (down to 20 metres or 66 feet).





The most fascinating ability of the Blenny is its ability 'to climb' using its fins beneath its body. It is an interesting fish, as unlike most fish it doesn't swim in the sea and prefers to stay close to the shoreline.





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**Dogfish – Lesser Spotted**

Catsúileach Ballach

*Scliorhinus canicula*

**Size:** 75 cms.

**Food:** Omnivorous, will eat anything.

**Habitat:** Lesser spotted dogfish live close to sandy or muddy bottoms, preferably where seaweed also grows. Young dogfish prefer shallow water while adults prefer deeper water.





### Spotted Ray

Roc Mín

*Raja Montigui*

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**Size:** 40-60 cm.

**Food:** Feeds mainly on crustaceans with prey size increasing as it grows, also preys on benthic worms, cephalopods and small fishes.

**Habitat:** Prefers habitats with sand or mud bottoms. Pale Brownish with many small dark spots that do not extend to the edges of wings.

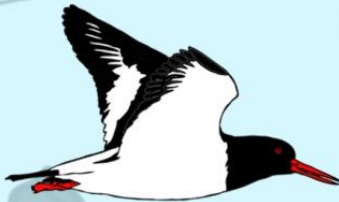




**Oystercatcher**  
Roilleach  
*Haematopus ostralegus*

**Diet:** The main food resource includes the larger invertebrates, particularly mussels and cockles.

**Breeding:** Nests on shingle beaches, marshes and rocky shores around the coast.



**Curlew**  
Crotach  
*Numenius arquata*

**Diet:** They feed mostly on invertebrates, particularly ragworms, crabs and molluscs.

**Breeding:** Nests on the ground in rough pastures, meadows & heather.



**Herring Gull**  
Faoileán scadán  
*Larus argentatus*

**Diet:** Both predator and scavenger.

**Breeding:** Breeds in colonies around the coast of Ireland.



**Sandwich Tern**  
Geabhróg scothdhubh  
*Sterna sandvicensis*

**Diet:** Mainly surface dwelling fish, taken during shallow dives.

**Breeding:** Nest colonially on the ground, mainly on the coast but with some colonies inland.





# The Explorers Education Programme<sup>TM</sup>







## Explorers Education Programme™ Overview

The Explorers Education Programme™ provides engaging lesson plans, resources and activities for primary school teachers to inspire their student's interest and knowledge in our ocean, marine environment, species and seashores.

It is supported by the Marine Institute, and funded under the Marine Research Programme by the Irish Government.

To find out more about Explorers Education, see the website:

[www.marine.ie/explorers-education-programme](http://www.marine.ie/explorers-education-programme)





## Explorers Mission Statement And Goals

*The Explorers Education Programme™ aims to build on Ireland's marine and maritime heritage by increasing awareness of the value, opportunities and social benefits of our ocean wealth and identity.*



# CLEGGAN

'Keep our Village & Beaches clean'



BIN  
IT!  
KEEP  
CLEGGAN  
LITTER FREE!





# Try a 2 Minute Beach Clean



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## Clean Coasts

'Clean Coasts works to protect Ireland's beaches, seas and marine life through volunteer groups in coastal communities and raising awareness of issues affecting our coast. Every year it organises hundreds of beach cleans, mobilises thousands of volunteers and removes considerable amounts of marine litter from our coastline.'

## 'Protect Cleggan's Coastline'

You can help protect Cleggan's coastline by taking part in Clean Coasts.

All you have to do is spend just **2 minutes** picking up marine litter and tagging **#2minutebeachclean @CleanCoasts**.

You can also join a local Clean Coasts Group for their beach cleans or set one up with support from the local Clean Coast coordinator!

Find out more at [www.cleancoasts.org](http://www.cleancoasts.org)





Please keep our community clean and litter free  
Do you know?

Plastic is the most common element that is found in the ocean. It is harmful for the environment as it does not get to break down easily and is often considered as food by marine animals!



# Cleggan Directory



Cleggan Stores Rogans Gala  
Cleggan  
Call: (095) 44750



Cleggan Marine Supplies  
E-mail: [sales@clegganmarine.com](mailto:sales@clegganmarine.com)  
Call: +353 (0)87 7759405



Cleggan Farm holiday cottages  
Web: [clegganfarmcottages.com](http://clegganfarmcottages.com)  
Call: (095) 44648



Inisbofin Tours & Boat trips  
E-mail: [bofindev@eircom.net](mailto:bofindev@eircom.net)  
Call: +353 95 45861

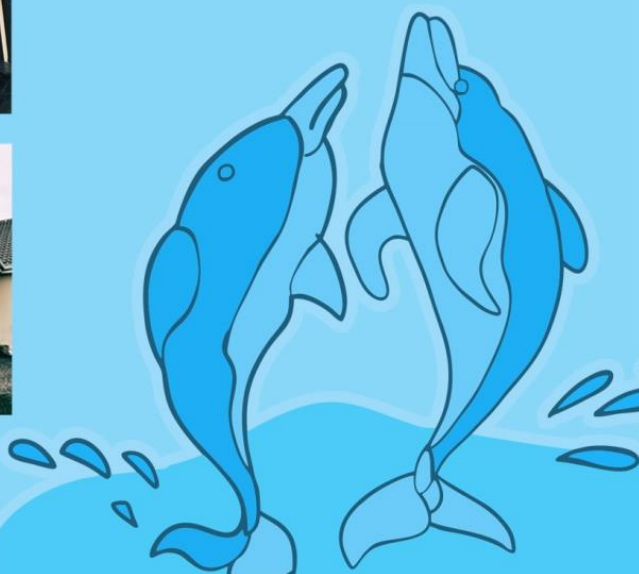


HazelBrook Farmhouse  
Call: (095) 44646



Cleggan Riding Centre  
Web: [clegganridingcentre.com](http://clegganridingcentre.com)  
Call: (095) 44746

For food & drink enjoy these local places.







#### Thanks to;

- Mary Aspell, the Principal of Cleggan school who was a great supporter of the whole project
- Explorers Education program outreach officer Joanne Casserly for inspiring the development of the book
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- Anne Marie Walshe for supplying photos of Cleggans past & present
- John Burke Dolphin photo
- Dr Stefan Krann Ocean Harvest photos

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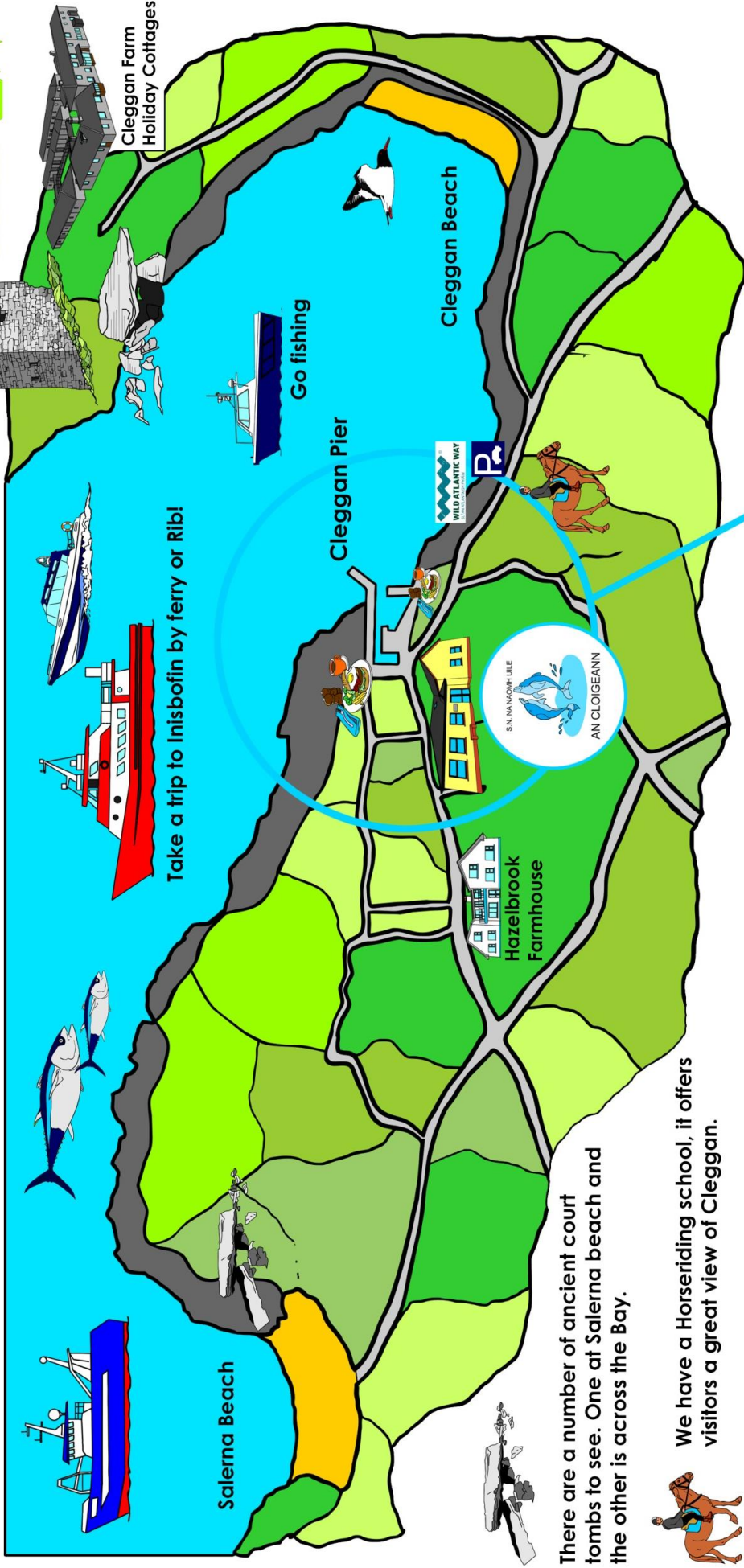
& Galway County Council

*"Funding for this project was recieved under Local Agenda 21, through the department of the Environment, Heritage & local Government, Galway County Council"*



## Things to see & do in Cleggan

Welcome to our beautiful Village there is so much to see and do. We have a number of ancient historical sites, a range of exciting sea activities, horseriding, great food & places to sleep! While this map will give you a small idea of where to go, our people are warm, friendly and happy to talk about our village.



There are a number of ancient court tombs to see. One at Salerna beach and the other is across the Bay.

**We have a Horseriding school, it offers visitors a great view of Cleggan.**

## Places to eat and socialise

## Places to buy supplies

**A range of fun boat tours, fishing and 'Rib' adventures.**

**Enjoy a break in our many B&B's and holiday homes.**

