



“Restoration of the Lower Shannon SAC (Mulkear River) for Sea Lamprey, Atlantic Salmon and the European Otter”

Press Release

27th January 2013

Éamon de Buitléar RIP

It is with great sadness that MulkearLIFE has learnt of the death of Éamon de Buitléar last night, 27th January 2013. Mr. de Buitléar, or simply Éamon, was a great friend to MulkearLIFE.

He preformed the official launch of the project on a beautiful sunny morning back in May 2010. During the media launch at Annacotty weir on the Mulkear River, he enthralled the dignitaries, camera crews and press photographers on that special May morning.

Later at the main launch event in Murroe he entertained the large crowd gathered for the official ceremony in Crokers with stories and music. Éamon was a noted and gifted musician and was heavily involved in the establishment of traditional music group Ceoltóirí Chualann.

It was particularly poignant that so many local school children attended the launch to see the hero of so many of the adults in the audience. He was a man who inspired generations of young Irish children to love and appreciate nature and world around us.

Mr. de Buitléar co-produced and originated the Amuigh Faoin Spéir series (Out Under the Sky) with Dutch artist Gerrit Van Gelderen. This programme was the ‘X-Factor’ of its day. It was simple, child friendly and deeply inspiring to an entire generation of children and indeed young adults. The fact that the programme was Irish made with a very strong Irish focus, helped to create a much needed appreciation of the Irish environment. Other programmes which equally inspired followed including The Natural World and The Living Isles, Exploring the Landscape, Irelands Wild Countryside, A Life in the Wild and Wild Islands.

MulkearLIFE’s Project Manager, Ruairí Ó Conchúir, first met Éamon over 30 years ago on the Dargle River in Co. Wicklow. The de Buitléar’s family home was on the Dargle River. Éamon was delighted to share his vast knowledge of river eco-systems, nature and biodiversity with three young Dublin hikers rambling up the Dargle River. He was a childhood hero to many. Interestingly, two of those hiking on that wet day, namely Ruairí Ó Conchúir and Lorcán Ó Toole, were inspired by Éamon to follow a career in nature conservation.

Éamon always kept in touch with project developments over the past number of years. He had a great interest in all aspects of the project’s work, especially our work with Atlantic Salmon and Otter. He would have been delighted to know that the Mulkear Conservation Volunteers installed another otter holt in the Mulkear catchment on the week-end he passed away at the age of 83.

MulkearLIFE extends its sympathy to Éamon’s family and friends.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.

Notes for Editors

1. High Resolution Digital Images are available to accompany this Press Release.
2. Interviews can be arranged with the Project Manager by using the contact details below.
3. MulkearLIFE is a new €1.75 million European Commission funded LIFE Nature project working on the restoration of the Lower Shannon Special Area of Conservation (with a focus on the Mulkear River catchment) for Atlantic Salmon, Sea Lamprey and European Otter. Further details may be viewed on the project website www.mulkearlif.com
4. Inland Fisheries Ireland (Limerick) is lead partner together with the OPW and Limerick County Council. Additional funding support comes from National Parks and Wildlife Service. Other supporters include Teagasc, IFA, ICMSA, and local angling groups.
5. The project is one of the first and most important integrated catchment management projects in Ireland. It is a flagship EU LIFE Nature project –covering some 650 sq km which contain a variety of habitats and protected species. Much of the area is designated as a Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) under the EU Habitats Directive and forms part of the Natura 2000 Network.

Issued by:

Ruairí Ó Conchúir, Project Manager – MulkearLIFE
Inland Fisheries Ireland (Limerick Office)
Ashbourne Business Park, Dock Road, Limerick
Tel: 061 300 238 / Fax: 061 300 308 / Mob: 087 062 5582
E-mail: info@mulkearlif.com
Web: www.mulkearlif.com / www.inlandfisheries.ie

