

All in a Day's Work

Aisling Moran – Community Development Worker

PROFILE

Aisling Moran is a Community Development Worker for three islands in West Cork – Sherkin, Heir and Long Island. She studied English and History in University College Cork and then did a Masters in Advertising at Dublin Institute of Technology.



Aisling Moran

Images courtesy of Aisling Moran & Robbie Murphy

are aware of what it means to be part of a small island, and how the islands are affected by new laws that are passed.

Do you work alone or as part of a team?

I work as part of a big team of volunteers and nothing would get done without the help of the local community. Currently we are working together to create special walks on Sherkin Island so that everyone can come and discover the island.

What advice would you give someone wanting to do your job?

Get involved and volunteer in lots of community groups and workshops. I would say work hard and be open minded, kind



Where do you work?

I work on Sherkin, Heir and Long Island. I travel on a ferry to work each morning, this means I MUST always be on time! I am the Community Development Worker. Every day I work with people on the islands to facilitate community events, business ideas and protecting the islands' environment. Our environment is made up of our people and the landscape – it all tells a story.

Have you always been interested in what you do?

Yes, I think the communities we live in are very important. The work is very varied and I get to meet lots of different people all the time and learn new things.

What is the best thing about your job?

The best thing about my job is meeting so many people. Also the places that I work are definitely some of the most beautiful in the whole of Ireland and it is important that we protect them. For example, in the past few years, bad storms

destroyed the way onto one of our beaches and now we are working on making sure that everyone with families', buggies and wheelchairs can get onto the beach. We are also testing the water to make sure that it is one of the best places in Ireland to swim.

Do you enjoy your work?

I love it – I love that it is so different and that no day is the same. I am always learning new things!

What equipment do you use?

There is lots of technology I rely on to send emails, take pictures, measure maps – but the most important tool I use every day is my brain and a smile. I have discovered it helps you with everything.

Where does your work take you?

My work can take me to different islands, to farms, to art exhibitions, on the water to fish farms, to Dáil Eireann and even to the European Parliament Buildings. It is very important to ensure that all the politicians



Top: Sherkin Island Ferry;

Above: Palestinian refugees visiting with the community of Sherkin



Above: Silver Strand showing erosion after a storm. Right: Looking down on Silver Strand.

and interested in everyone. Listen to everyone but always make up your own mind and never be afraid to compromise. Also, you should never stop learning. Every year I try to do a new course.

What is best piece of advice you have ever had?

Don't take life too seriously and make sure to enjoy it!



Representing the islands at Government Buildings.



An Inter-Island soccer tournament!